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Syria: We must bolster military to confront Israel's buildup

Christopher meets Moussa in Cairo

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SYRIA must act quickly in bolstering its military forces to confront Israel's arms buildup, Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam said yesterday.

"We have to make building our national shield a national responsibility which we should approach without hesitation," Khaddam told a rally in Damascus.

"Despite the accords Israel has struck with three Arab parties, it is going ahead with promoting its fighting ability in spite of its current arms arsenal and huge military industries," he added.

Khaddam's remarks at ceremonies marking the 32nd anniversary of the ruling Baath Party's accession to power coincided with the start of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's five-day tour aimed at reviving the peace process.

Christopher arrived yesterday in Cairo and will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today before leaving for Israel today and a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Christopher told Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa during a 70-minute meeting last night that the Clinton administration assigns high priority to extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty indefinitely, a senior US official said.

Moussa insisted that Cairo could not commit itself to backing an indefinite extension of the treaty as long as Israel has not signed it. "We cannot commit ourselves to a certain position that Israel is exempted from," he told reporters. "The NPT is a treaty for everybody."

Stopping briefly in a hotel press room after seeing Moussa, Christopher said he called members of Congress while flying to Cairo to urge approval of a pledge to Jordan to forgive its debt to the US.

Israel-Syria scorecard, Gingrich calls for forgiving debt, Page 2

Peres, Arafat to discuss redeployment today

DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat will "discuss details" of IDF redeployment away from Palestinian population centers in the territories when they meet this afternoon at the Erez junction, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The meeting will be in preparation for next week's session involving the two and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

After the Beit Lid bombings, Rabin put the brakes on the self-rule talks, linking progress to the implementation of PA measures to curb terrorism.

There is speculation that the two may actually open maps and begin discussing how IDF redeployment can occur. They are also planning to discuss Palestinian elections and the transfer of civilian jurisdiction to Palestinians in the territories.

Arafat is likely to call for the lifting of the closure, which bars all but 15,000 Palestinians from entering Israel. Arafat is also expected to call for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet Arafat in Gaza tomorrow.

Rabin: I am running for PM in 1996

Ramon pledges allegiance to Rabin

SARAH HONIG



Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon attend a meeting of local council heads in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared yesterday he would be a candidate for premier in 1996 and in the meantime would do all he can to rehabilitate his injured Labor Party.

"The generations problem in politics is a biological one, but in each case it should be treated according to the situation at hand, and not according to automatic formulas," Rabin said after meeting with Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon.

Ramon yesterday pledged allegiance to Rabin and vowed to do his utmost to see him reelected. Ramon vehemently rejected suggestions he was seeking to exploit Labor's plight to replace Rabin at the party helm.

Ramon repeated his pledge to Rabin when they conferred last night - ostensibly over the pension funds, but unofficially also on the issue of Ramon's return to Labor, due to be deliberated today by the Labor political bureau.

Ramon yesterday also threatened to stop participating in meetings of Labor's ultra-dovish "Gang of Eight" parliamentary caucus, the source of intimations about his supposed plans for a political coup.

Such talk, Ramon railed yesterday, is "unfounded, reckless, and irresponsible, and it comes from reckless and irresponsible people. I cannot be held accountable for what irresponsible people say. I will work for Rabin's return to the premiership, regardless of what political framework I may be in."

Ramon's outrage followed Tuesday night's meeting of the Eight in the office of Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, when Burg and MK Hagai Merom intimated the time is ripe

to get rid of the old leadership and replace it with a young one headed by Ramon.

No such resolutions were adopted at the meeting, but yesterday morning Burg further inspired speculation by stressing "The time has come to sweep the stables. Many of the old-time ministers have got to go in a broad cabinet re-shuffle, which would bring into the cabinet [former chief of staff] Ehud Barak, Haim Ramon, [Deputy Foreign Minister] Yossi Beilin, and the first Arab minister, Nawaf Massalha." (The Eight include Ramon, MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital - who were expelled from Labor with him - Beilin, and MKs Burg, Merom, Massalha, and Yael Dayan.)

Merom last night denied there is any rift among the Eight. "We have been together for a decade and have not seen eye to eye many times before... The outcry in the party, however, leads me to feel that this merely affords a pretext for our foes to come after us."

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri, who is particularly close to Rabin, accused the Eight of "seeking to undermine Labor and bring it to total disintegration. If this happens, Ramon would have nowhere to return. We are dealing with people who could end up destroying the party, be it out of design or simply because they are incorrigible publicity hounds who know no limits."

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli attacked the Eight for "having cemented the association between the entire Labor Party leadership and the investigations of corruption in the Histadrut. This is irresponsible, unfair, and disloyal in the extreme. This is not

something we are going to ignore."

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram reminded the Eight that "They are by no means the only ones who could rejuvenate the party and give it a younger new face. There are other candidates for leadership," Baram, a member of Labor's so-called middle generation, is seen as one of them.

Labor MK Shlomo Bibbut said "the Eight behave like a bunch of conspirators plotting to hijack the government. It is high time the party stops being so scared of them and does something about this bunch."

Ramon must deal with this hostility on the part of party members at a time when the police are demanding evidence about Histadrut-Labor corruption and his return to Labor is being deliberated in the party.

Labor's political bureau is due to take up Ramon's return today and might decide this afternoon to rescind the expulsion of Ramon, Peretz, and Avital. Rabin yesterday received recommendations to this effect in a report by a committee headed by MK Elie Goldschmidt.

Meanwhile, Rabin yesterday canceled a session of Sareau, the Labor ministerial caucus, which was due to deliberate the implications of the Histadrut scandal on the party.

The official explanation was Rabin's busy schedule, but a source close to Rabin said that "On second thought, it was decided that the ministers could contribute nothing but mutual recriminations and acrimony. They would make a bad situation worse and only further the linkage in the public mind between the Histadrut corruption and Labor. It is bad enough that such a linkage will be underscored at the political bureau."

Kessar, Yehezkel protest innocence in Histadrut fraud

SARAH HONIG, BILL HUTMAN and LIAT COLLINS

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar and Labor MK Avi Yehezkel, who are both suspected of using Histadrut funds for their primary campaigns, maintained their innocence yesterday, making their first public pronouncements on the allegations against them.

Kessar will soon be questioned by police on allegations he used Histadrut funds for his Labor primary campaign in 1992, police sources said yesterday. But police first want to gather more information, the sources said.

The attorney-general, state attorney and representative of the national fraud squad are expected to meet today to discuss handling of the Histadrut Affair, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Kessar, a former Histadrut secretary-general, spoke at a conference of local authorities in Jerusalem shortly before Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon mounted the rostrum. The event's organizers made sure the two political antagonists would not meet.

A visibly emotional Kessar, his voice occasionally breaking, declared that "those who know me know full well that aside from my family I have only one thing - my good name. I will do everything to protect that name and I am sure I will in the end be unequivocally vindicated. I have worked in the Histadrut for 30 years and throughout my record has been without blemish. I have always taken the greatest of care not to stray one bit from ethical standards."

Kessar, thus far the highest-ranking figure mentioned in the current police investigations, is accused of using Histadrut facilities and funds in his 1992 primary campaign for the Labor leadership.

Yehezkel, who in the early '90s headed the Re'ut study fund, is suspected of dipping into that fund to finance his primary race for the Labor Knesset list in 1992.

He vehemently denied this, and argued that he was "in the Histadrut framework for only 20 months. It is unthinkable that I will now be expected to bear responsibility for what was done in the Histadrut for many decades."

He said he would refuse to be the "fall guy" to protect others in the Labor Party.

"My good name, pardon my impudence, is far more important to me than the party's reputation,"

he said.

Police are also investigating other episodes, including bogus bookkeeping used to cover up Histadrut financing of spying on Ramon during last year's Histadrut elections campaign, when he challenged the official Labor ticket.

Shahal also told the plenum that there would soon be indictments regarding the suspected financial malfeasance in 1992. The charges will include falsifying records, fraud, breach of trust and other violations.

According to Shahal, the fraud squad met with the Histadrut comptroller to investigate the 1992 primaries for the Labor leadership: the 1993-1994 Histadrut primaries; and the 1994 Histadrut elections.

"From these investigations there is initial suspicion of illegal outlay of Histadrut funds to finance various activities of senior Histadrut people," Shahal said.

It is understood that Kessar is one of those Shahal was referring to, although he did not name him.

"No one is above the law. Each person and each body will be investigated according to need. This is the meaning of proper administration," Shahal said.

The internal Histadrut reports turned over to police on Tuesday by Histadrut legal adviser Yaron Keidar and Labor MK Shmuel Avital were still being studied yesterday by police.

The bulk of the material was a comptroller's report concerning the labor federation's Mifalei Tarbut V'Hinuch company, which allegedly funded campaign services for several Labor Party members. The sources said the comptroller's report would not stand up as evidence in court, and police would have to dig up the original documents on which the report's allegations are based.

"Some of the original documents we already have, but for other documents we are going to have to go back to the Histadrut and find them," a senior police source said.

For the fourth day in a row, Uzi Fassa, the state's witness in the Histadrut fraud case, was questioned by police. The daily questioning of Fassa will likely continue, the sources said.

Fassa is being questioned at Police Fraud Division Headquarters in Jaffa.

Dollar rebounds after 4-day battering on world markets

JOSE ROSENFELD and news agencies

THE dollar rebounded from its four-day battering yesterday after monetary officials made remarks to bolster the currency, which had hit post-war lows against the Japanese yen or the German mark every day starting last Thursday.

Last night in New York, the dollar rose to 91.35 yen after tumbling Tuesday through the psychologically important 90-yen level to finish at 89.65 yen.

It rose to 1.3955 marks from 1.3675 late Tuesday.

Speculators who have pushed the dollar lower finally backed off after US, Japanese and German officials said the dollar's weakness was not justified by economic data.

In Washington, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan came out forcefully against a weak dollar, calling it worrisome and very likely overdone.

Locally, the shekel continued dropping against the currency basket. The shekel lost 0.63 percent against the currency basket to NIS 3.4663 and gained 0.3 percent on the dollar, which traded at NIS 2.961.

The yen surged 2.49 percent against the shekel to NIS 3.306, while the mark gained 1.84 percent to NIS 2.1638. The French franc rose 1.53 percent to NIS 0.6074 and the English pound a more moderate 0.49 percent to NIS 4.8531.

Baby-sitter gives toddler doped cereal

A 35-YEAR-OLD Rehovot woman was arrested and sent for psychiatric observation on suspicion she fed cereal laced with an strong anti-depressant to a two-year-old she was watching.

The toddler was brought by his mother to Kaplan Hospital after she noticed he was suffering from serious stomach pains. Poisoning was suspected immediately, and the boy - who at one point stopped breathing - was treated and was reported out of danger.

The baby-sitter, who admitted putting the drug into the food, was apparently involved in a similar incident recently. She has a police record, and is also an outpatient at the psychiatric hospital in Be'er Ya'acov. (Him)

Private eyes held for plotting murders for Russian mafia

RAINE MARCUS

PRIVATE investigators Ya'acov Bak and Amir Ben-Asher were arrested Tuesday for allegedly plotting murders here on behalf of an Israeli living in the CIS.

Bak, 55, a former senior police officer, and Ben-Asher, in his early forties, are to appear for a remand hearing in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning. They were being held at separate police stations.

Police confirmed the arrests, but refused to elaborate and imposed a total news blackout. However, a police source said Tel Aviv detectives are working in close cooperation with police in Russia and other countries to establish who commissioned the murders.

The source said Bak is suspected of hiring a hit man here to kill two Russian immigrants who owe money to the Russian mafia. Ben-Asher recently visited Russia, the source added.

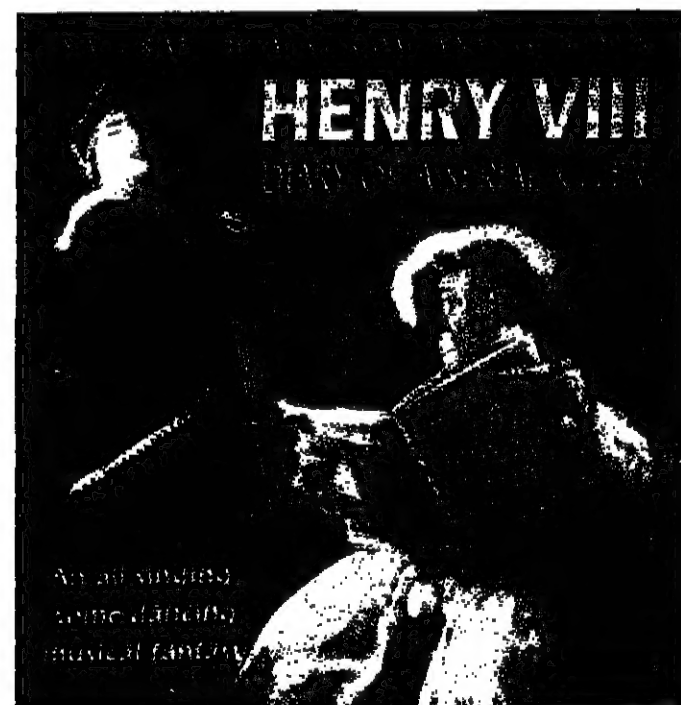
The two were arrested following prolonged surveillance by undercover squads and the testimony of a man, possibly the hit man, who apparently turned informer.

"The case is closed," said a senior officer. "We have all the evidence we need to convict."

The officer said the identity of the man abroad who commissioned the killings is known, but would not confirm whether police there have arrested him or whether more people and other countries are involved.

He did not rule out the possibility that additional suspects may be arrested, but would only say the affair is "very sensitive."

Ben-Asher, former owner of the Mor-Tal investigation company, was arrested last September following allegations he and his late partner, Ze'ev Levita, stole documents from the rival Tashbetz company and transferred them to Ma'ariv. Bak was also arrested on suspicion of having masterminded the thefts. Neither was charged.



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EDDY MUIR

Chernobyl 'liquidators' demand help as victims

MORE than 70 nuclear experts and engineers who helped neutralize the leaking Chernobyl reactor nine years ago are dying a slow death here without being recognized as victims of an atomic disaster, their spokesman said yesterday.

Alexander Kalantersky, the head of the cement plant which built the "sarcophagus" over the burning nuclear facility, said three experts have already died and another three are in critical condition.

The former Soviet Jews, who had been sent on a suicide mission to the area, made aliyah in the past four years.

However, he said, they have no special status and receive a mere NIS 800 from the National Insurance Institute monthly.

Kalantersky, 53, has lost all his teeth, has cancer of the liver, and is able to lift nothing heavier than paper.

He wants the government to obtain for the olim the same special status accorded to Chernobyl "liquidators" in Germany and the US by the governments of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

BATSHEVA TSUR

This special status, entitling them to numerous economic and financial benefits, is embodied in Soviet law and applies also to persons who left the USSR, he said. But when the country broke up into republics, those living abroad were no longer entitled to the benefits.

Kalantersky would like to see those benefits translated into a cash payment of \$200,000 per victim, and to enlist the government's aid in pushing for legal representation in the republics. "But we don't want to be considered pathetic cases," he added.

At a meeting this week with representatives of the "liquidators," Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir promised that NII head Yossi Tamir would raise the issue in ongoing negotiations with Ukraine, Kalantersky said.

Meanwhile, Kfar Habad has stepped up its efforts to bring more children to the haredi village from the Chernobyl region, following disturbing findings in a World Health Organization re-

port.

Altogether 1,114 children have been brought to Kfar Habad from the region and the Chernobyl Children Association would like to see monthly rescue flights instead of the present tri-monthly flights, spokesman Jay Litvin said.

Israeli medical centers are providing care of the best quality to high-risk cases and the results are most encouraging, he added.

According to the 1994 annual WHO report, the rate of thyroid cancer in Gomel is 80 times higher than the world average. The report also pointed out that the cumulative effects of being exposed to radiation worsen after 10 years, he said.

"The ninth anniversary falls on April 26 and we are accelerating our efforts. We hope to bring the next group at the end of this month," said Litvin.

There are 500,000 Jews living in the area most affected by the radiation and some 150,000 have made aliyah, he noted. "Israel is now the second largest home, after the former Soviet Union, to Chernobyl victims," said Litvin.



Onlookers view the bloodstained van in which two US consular officials were killed yesterday in Karachi, Pakistan. (AP)

2 US diplomats slain in Karachi

HAZID HUSSAIN
KARACHI

TWO gunmen jumped out of a taxi at a stoplight and sprayed bullets at a van carrying US consulate workers yesterday, killing two and wounding a third.

No one claimed responsibility and US diplomatic missions in Pakistan said they did not know of a motive. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the attack was "part of a well-planned campaign of terrorism."

The Americans were headed to work at the US consulate in Karachi when the van stopped at a traffic light on one of the southern city's busiest streets. As they waited for the light to change, the gunmen got out of a taxi and opened fire with AK-47 rifles.

The bullets shattered the front and back windshields, killing Jackie van Landingham, a secretary, and Gary Durrell, a communications technician. Mark McCloy, who worked in the consulate's post office, was injured and was in stable condition. Their Pakistani driver

was not hit and drove them to the hospital. Karachi has been the scene of daily gun battles between political, religious and ethnic factions. More than 400 people have been killed the past three months.

"The identity, affiliations and motives of the gunmen are not known at this time," the US Embassy in Islamabad said in a brief statement.

Bhutto, currently in Singapore, sent a letter of condolences to President Clinton.

Bhutto's government has been friendly toward the US and is planning an official visit to Washington next month where she will meet Clinton. US first lady Hillary Clinton is to visit Pakistan at the end of the month.

Clinton condemned the killing but does not

expect the violence to alter plans by his wife to visit the country, a spokesman said.

Abdullah Shah, the chief minister of Sindh Province, which includes Karachi said the killings were meant to sabotage Bhutto's visit to Washington.

"There are people who do not want an improvement in Pakistan's relations with the United States," Shah said.

Asked to elaborate, he noted that Pakistan has extradited suspected drug traffickers to the US and is planning to send several more.

Other possible motives include revenge for last month's arrest and extradition to the US of Ramzi Yousef, a prime suspect in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

Some Pakistanis opposed the extradition of Yousef, an Iraqi. The US Embassy in Islamabad and the consulate in Karachi tightened security following Yousef's arrest. (AP)

New bill would criminalize use of 'black medicine'

JUDY SIEGEL

ACCEPTING an under-the-table payment or gift for speeding up medical treatment or getting a specific surgeon to operate will become a criminal violation, rather than just an administrative offense, if a bill prepared by the Health Ministry is passed by the Knesset.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said yesterday he will next week present to the cabinet an amendment to existing laws to help wipe out "black medicine." If approved, it will be brought later to the Knesset for approval.

The law would encompass all public hospitals (i.e., those owned by the government, Kupat Holim Clalit or voluntary organizations that receive government

funds), as well as all health professionals and para-professionals.

Hospital personnel would not be allowed to let a patient "jump the queue" in exchange for illicit payments, nor would a doctor agree to perform surgery in the hospital's facilities, except under recognized private medical service arrangements.

Sneh also said that within six months the government hospitals will institute a new, strictly supervised system in which patients may pay extra for choosing the senior doctor they want to treat them - but this will be only in the late afternoon and evening hours and not at the expense of regular

patients, he said.

The Sharap (private medical service) system that has functioned for years in Jerusalem's voluntary hospitals may continue, but patients will not be allowed to pay to jump the queue, only to choose their doctor and get more comfortable conditions.

Sneh said a recent survey found that 27 percent of the public had "been exposed" to black medicine. The poll, conducted by Dr. Shlomo Noy and encompassing over 1,000 doctors and patients, found that 80% of the medical procedures involved in "black medicine" were requests that a certain doctor treat the patient, usually a high-ranking surgeon.

Immigrants threaten immolation

BATSHEVA TSUR

MEMBERS of a new immigrant Russian family are threatening to immolate themselves at noon today unless they are given tickets to leave the country.

They are apparently the victims of a "con-man" who advertised in the Russian-language press and succeeded in running off with the money of 11 families. "We have nothing to eat,"

Iana Silchenko of Moshav Pa'amai Tashaz, near Sderot, told The Jerusalem Post. "For the past month, my children have had only a glass of milk a day. We are planning to set ourselves alight at midday [today] unless we get tickets to America, England or even Russia."

Aides to Absorption Minister

Yair Tzaban said the family had not approached the ministry with their problems.

They immediately dispatched a Russian-speaking social worker to the moshav and an official to remove the cans of fuel with which the family was planning to ignite themselves.

Yesterday evening, efforts were being made to persuade the Silchenkos to meet the ministry's regional director to get aid.

Silchenko said she, her non-Jewish husband Zlatoslav and their three children made aliyah a year ago from a kolchoz (collective farm) near the Russian town of Saratov.

In Netanya, they read an advertisement for work and cheap housing on the moshav. They contacted the intermediary who advertised, and he took checks for them "for rent and as security." The family sold all their electronic equipment in return for the promise of a nice house, she said.

A short while later, the lesser began demanding rent for the house.

When the Silchenkos said they had paid the intermediary, the owner started mistreating them, refusing to allow the children out the house, Iana said.

No moshav officials were available for comment last night.

Silchenko said there were 11 families in the same position "and they are all crying."

Man suspected of wife's mercy killing

RAINE MARCUS

SHARON District police are investigating what they believe was a mercy killing yesterday, after an elderly man allegedly suffocated his ailing wife to put her out of her misery.

Police say Yosef Greenbaum killed his wife, Haya, by suffocating her with a plastic bag, before trying to take his own life using the same method.

Haya Greenbaum, 61, a resident at Ra'anana's Mishan old age home, suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

Yosef Greenbaum was taken to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital, where he regained consciousness last night and was in satisfactory condition.

The couple's son told Itim last night at his father's bedside that Greenbaum "had devoted his life for the past eight years to caring for mother... He fed her, washed her, and cared for her with great devotion." It was only after he developed a heart condition that his father agreed to admit his mother to a nursing home, he said, and would travel each day from his Tel Aviv home to visit her.

Mishan director Esther Yekovitz said an employee discovered the couple yesterday morning when taking another resident for a walk in the park. Yosef Greenbaum was found slumped on a bench and his wife dead in her wheelchair beside him. Paramedics revived him.

Police are to decide this morning whether to request Greenbaum's remand.

Simpson defense may see Fuhrman records

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The judge in the O.J. Simpson murder trial ruled yesterday the defense can see edited versions of some internal police documents about investigations of Detective Mark Fuhrman.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito said he would order "the disclosure of certain items," but would edit sections. Ito did not elaborate on what he would release to the defense.

The ruling came as Fuhrman's turn at the witness stand neared. Fuhrman says he found a bloody glove at Simpson's estate that matches one at the scene where the former football star's ex-wife was killed. The defense has suggested Fuhrman is a racist who might have planted the glove to frame Simpson. Fuhrman's testimony is expected to be one of the most dramatic moments in the widely followed trial.

After two hearings to quash subpoenas, Detective Tom Lange was to return to the stand, to be followed by Ronald Goldman's stepmother, Patti Goldman, then Fuhrman.

The defense claims internal police probes have focused on allegations Fuhrman brought a Nazi insignia to a police station and knew Nicole Brown Simpson well enough to have commented on her body before she was killed.

Nicole Brown Simpson and Goldman, a friend of hers, were slain outside her condominium June 12.

Simpson, 47, a professional football Hall of Famer who became an actor and television sports commentator, has pleaded innocent to the killings. He remains jailed without bail.

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הכרזת האו"ם

Purim just got sweeter

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS

THE first new ice cream of the year looks as though it's dressed for Purim as an inverted clown's hat. It's a transparent plastic cone of two-toned Tenne Noga ice cream with a colored ball of bubble gum (mastic) in the bottom. Noga Mastic (no relation to glida mastic, an ice cream with a slightly gummy consistency) is either chocolate-vanilla or strawberry-vanilla, with hardened chocolate on top. It comes with a little plastic spoon, so hands should stay clean.

The required nutritional data on the colorful lid are so small and so obscured by the design as to be almost impossible to read. With the help of a magnifying glass, I learned that the contents of the plastic cone weigh 50 grams and contain 133 calories. I also discovered the Hatam Sotef harodi hechsher on the label. The price is NIS 2 per cone.

CHILDREN AREN'T the only ones dressing up as Power Rangers this year. So are chocolates. Vered Hagalil (Rose of Galilee) has hollow milk-chocolate figures in the shape of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. Five characters from the popular TV series are available in colored aluminum foil suits.

Singles cost NIS 5.80; a gift box of three costs NIS 16.50 (a saving of 30 agorot per figure). Labeling on the box is in English, French and Hebrew. Each Power Ranger figure contains only 35 grams of milk chocolate, so you're paying mainly for the shape. The calorie count is 190 per Power Ranger.

If you want more chocolate for less money, Vered Hagalil offers a Chocolate Zoo gift box of milk-chocolate rectangles for young children. The wrapping on each piece of the undecorated chocolate has a picture of a domesticated or wild animal with its name in clear, vowelized Hebrew. It's perfect for first-graders or preschool children. The colorful box (NIS 8.90) contains 16 pieces totaling 144 grams, under the kashrut supervision of the Sefed Rabbinate. (There is no pig among the animals.)

pastry chef, Roni Freddi Mordechai. The bar I opened had a chocolate fondue recipe. This dark chocolate, under Sefed Rabbinate supervision, is marked "Kosher - Dairy," only because it is made on the same production line as milk chocolate, Vered Hagalil says. It has no dairy content.

The company gave no convincing explanation as to why the "fine bittersweet" should not be made on the "parve" production line which Vered Hagalil uses for its ordinary bittersweet chocolate bars, in red wrappers and marked "parve." Parve chocolate has greater usefulness for kashrut-observing customers both for after-dinner snacking and for baking.

Vered Hagalil also has a line of chocolates - Vered - for harodi customers. TASTE OF Israel, a growing competitor of Elite and Vered Hagalil, has new, improved chocolate bars of its own, both milk chocolate and bittersweet. Its bittersweet, in a red wrapper, is marked "parve," with an Agudat Yisrael harodi hechsher. It contains 54 percent cocoa solids, even more than in Vered Hagalil's "fine bittersweet." The milk-chocolate version, in a blue wrapper, has a subtle taste, similar to that of Hershey's chocolate made in the U.S., which distinguishes it from most other brands.

The price per bar is only NIS 1.90, but it contains only 75 grams.

VIRTUALLY ALL local sweets companies offer inexpensive Purim gift packs for children. Elite's this year are in the triangular shape of *oznei Haman*, and in-

BAZAAR



Vered Hagalil's Chocolate Zoo gift box has 16 pieces, each in a wrapper depicting an animal with its Hebrew name.

clude sweets wrapped in contemporary children's themes from Power Rangers to Barbie. The recommended price is NIS 6.50. Taste of Israel invites consumers to its factory outlet shop to make up their own *mishloach manot* gift packs for Purim. Prices range from NIS 6 to NIS 17.

The factory shop, open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, is in the New Industrial Zone of Rishon LeZion, 25 Hagahana St. (near the Gali factory).

Taste of Israel also sells ready-made gift packs in ordinary retail stores. The Adin wafer company of Hod Hasharon, now celebrating its 20th birthday, suggests its wafers as components of Purim gift parcels. They have the hechsher of Agudat Yisrael.

A CHOCOLATE gift box fit for a king is Lindt of Switzerland's Lindor chocolate-cream filled milk-chocolate balls, imported by Friedland. The bright red box contains 360 grams of the elegantly wrapped chocolate balls -

30 pieces for NIS 24.95. The label carries the "Kosher - Dairy" hechsher of Rabbi Ya'akov Auerbach, an Israeli Orthodox rabbi who heads the Rabbinical World Union for Kashruth, a supervisory company mainly for European-made products. Its emblem is a back-to-back *kaf* and "K" inside a Star of David.

The labeling is all in Hebrew, except for the names Lindt and Lindor.

CHILDREN WILLING to dress up as sweets - or anything suggesting sweets - are invited to visit any branch of the Greenberg Supershuk chain on Purim on Thursday, March 16, between 10 a.m. and noon.

They will receive a gift pack of goodies from Tuffine Sa'ar of Kibbutz Sa'ar, which manufactures coated wafers and other sweets.

A clown will be on hand to entertain children at all nine branches of the discount food chain - in Holon, Nesher/Tel-Hanan, Kiryat Shmona, Sderot, Sarfona-Rehovot, Tel Aviv, Bilu, Or Akiva and Beit She'an.

For the small-bag addict

GLAD RAGS
ROSE-MARIE TURK

IT sits there staring at you. Your new small handbag with the firm sides, the pert handle, the crisp clasp. It reminds you of Jackie O., Grace Kelly and, yes, you must admit, the Queen Mother.

It's going to make you ever so chic for spring. It's also going to drive you crazy.

What, you wonder, will you ever squeeze inside? Where can you go without your cellular phone, your sunglasses, your reading glasses, your four lipsticks, three eye shadows, two blushes and one mascara wand?

You'd be surprised. Just take it from women who have already downsized and minimized. They have turned packing a bag, sometimes no bigger than a paperback novel, into an art and a science. Their cellular phones stay in their cars. They carry small electronic date books and folding glasses or antique lorgnettes. In place of wallets, they might slip in just one credit card and a few bills fastened by a money clip.

Their pens, paper, combs, mirrors and such are scaled down to Lilliputian proportions. "They're like children's bags," opines Suzanne Marx, a Los Angeles-based fund-raiser who prefers a bag that measures 10 x 12.5 cm. and miraculously accommodates a Tiffany folding mirror, sample-size Bulgari perfume, mini breath spray, linen handkerchief, paper-thin Chanel rouge case, lip liner, lipstick, credit card, "a couple of dollars for parking," a fold-up nonprescription glasses, and a small sterling silver pen and pad. Small-bag addicts must forever

weigh the options. In Marx's case, she can live without certain essentials, including a comb.

"I just run my hands through my hair," she says. But as a fund-raiser, she must have paper and pen. After any social event, she says, "I might come home with 10 pages of notes." Despite such bare-bones minimalism, placement is everything.

"You have to engineer it; you can't just throw things in," explains Rosalind Millstone, a Los Angeles design and color consultant who eschews a large bag because, she explains, "it's a temptation to carry things that one doesn't need."

"As my purses got smaller, I began to enjoy them more," she says. "I began to pick up small things to go with them. You don't need a big compact. You don't need a big anything." She packs a 15 x 10-cm. purse (her largest) with a small Swiss army knife, wallet, credit-card case, flashlight on a key chain, silver Tiffany comb, mirror, spray atomizer and antique lorgnette.

Miniature freebies such as airline combs and hotel sewing kits also are the right size for small purses. To get a dab of lipstick, Judy Knapp, co-owner of the Los Angeles apparel company, refrigerates the tube "so it's nice and solid, then I slice a bit off. You create your own little things," she says, summing up the tiny-bag technique, which, for some, includes the tiny-bag transportation code: To avoid looking like the Queen Mother, you just carry it in your hand.

(Los Angeles Times)

Fashions that take after a certain stripe

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

IT'S happening again. Politics are impacting on fashion. While the Middle East peace process has struck more than a few snags since the famous Rabin-Arafat handshake, fashion designers have optimistically included Middle Eastern inspired themes in their new season's collections.

Soft, fluid, unconstructed shapes are featured in most collections, but the most vivid, visual impression is of stripes which are surfacing in his, hers and unisex garments.

They are not so much the formal bankers' stripes of the business world, but the wider, multi-colored stripes of regional garments of the Middle East and occasionally the variegated black-and-white stripes of the talit.

Kenzo is dressing his men in elegantly nonchalant pastel stripes, and clothing his women in more masculine, starkly dramatic black-and-white stripes.



The unisex look by Lanrè features vivid stripes within a relaxed silhouette.

The color theme follows through in the Lanrè collection, but the drama is relieved by a relaxed silhouette.

Mondi stripes intensify from

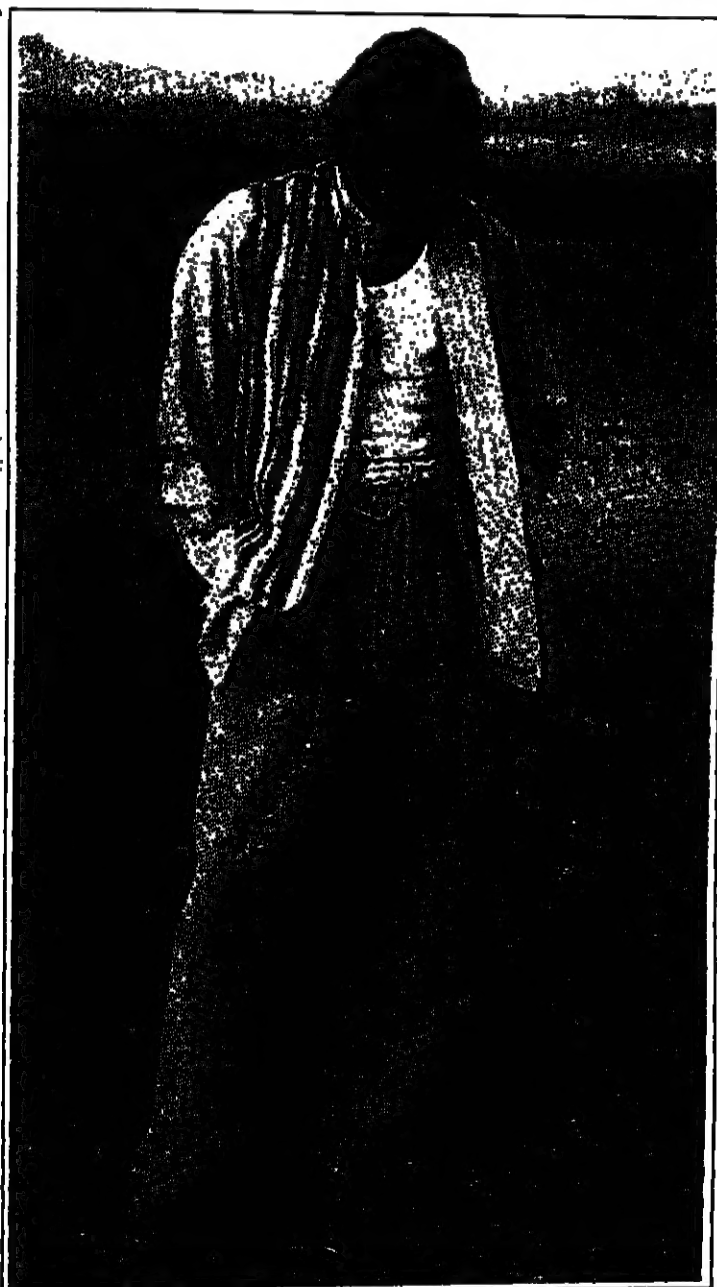


From Mondì comes a more sporty look, with stripes ranging from neutral tones to vivid colors. Here, a matching striped hat sets off the outfit.

Avia body suit looking good in its own right and even better when teamed with white jacket and pants.

Styling in general will tend to

be more glamorous and romantic - a sign perhaps that after proving they can make it in a man's world, women are now prepared to step back into their own.



Designer Kenzo has started dressing his men in elegantly nonchalant pastels, in soft, fluid shapes.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

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365 WAYS TO COOK CHINESE - NIS 55. 06-567331.
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REVERSIBLE WINTER COAT - NIS 100; winter suit, size 44, NIS 75; hair dryer with hood, NIS 50. 04-242572.
PURIM CARDS FROM YAD SARAH - each card pays for a gift basket to a needy old person, NIS 18. Call PR office 02-244242, or come by 43 Hanev'im St., Jerusalem.
OSTERIZER - Kitchen Center, hardly used, NIS 300. 02-714210, NS.
DREUM DRESSHOUSECOAT - Tamara design, size medium, practically new, NIS 150; iron, Philips, used, NIS 100

o.b.o. 02-421452.
DAISY-WHEEL PRINTER - Juki 6100, NIS 160; B&W monitor, NIS 60, 1200 baud modem NIS 120, all working condition. 02-793975.
FORM PRINCESS DRESS - pink, size 6, worn once, incl. crown and magic wand, NIS 65. 02-867081, NS.
SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS TELEPHONE - good condition, NIS 210. 02-351975, NS.
CANON A-50 DOT MATRIX PRINTER - in perfect working order, NIS 200. 02-67152, NS.
BIRD CAGE - suitable for budgie or similar-sized birds, NIS 30; children's bed-guard (Lipaki), NIS 25. 02-733562.
FINE CHEST OF DRAWERS - NIS 150; 2-door closet, excellent condition, NIS 150; many household items, free. 02-434118.
REFRIGERATOR - good working condition, NIS 250. 02-764201.
PET CARRIER - used once, 26x34x26 inches, NIS 125; Peasche airbrush travel, size 12, 2 P - #3 kit (single action), NIS 125. 02-724807.
FOOD PROCESSOR - Hamilton Beach (US), brand new, NIS 300. 02-381858.
CABINET - with bookshelves combination, new in carton, sturdy, 76x182x30 cm, NIS 300. 02-420024.
BABY CAR-BED-SEAT - Cosco, for newborn till age 1, NIS 300. 02-381858.
3 FLADELET KEYS - with cylinder, NIS 200. Yaelle, 02-832143.
ELECTRIC HEATER - new, 4 coils, NIS 80; oriental rug, almost new, NIS 150; large children's rug, NIS 60. 02-14563.
CAR SEAT - like new, NIS 180. 02-85183.
ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER - Olympia (English only), nearly new, extra ribbons, NIS 300. 02-836297, NS.
RECORD PLAYER - perfect working order, Mitsubishi, stainless steel, NIS 300. 02-789703.
AMERICAN SOFA - large, scroll-arm, needs re-upholstering, NIS 300. 02-611189, NS.

SUNFILTER CURTAINS - 3, large, Terry-lene. 02-702911, after 4 pm.
ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER - Brother, 2-3 pp. memory and box ribbons, daisy wheel, NIS 300. Adina, 02-631761, NS.
CAR LEAVING FOR NANTANA ON EREK PESSAN - returning on April 22 eve, has 2 vacant places. 02-631281, NS.
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ACROPOLIS DINNER SERVICE - NIS 250. 02-274130.
8" COLOR TV - almost new, NIS 300. 02-816345.
COFFEE TABLE - excellent condition, formica top, solid wood, NIS 300. 02-834665.
REVLOON SUPER-STYLING BIG CURLS TONG - new, can create curls, waves, or straighten hair, NIS 150. 02-610768, NS.
CHILD'S BED - exotic wood, with good mattress, NIS 300. Mini, 02-850672.
DESK - with shelves and cupboard, NIS 100; Hoover vacuum cleaner, mini, needs small repair, NIS 150. 02-361839.
HEATER - new table model, NIS 50; the-

ater raincoat (size 3-9), NIS 80; brown rainjacket (small), NIS 40; boots, black leather, knee high, NIS 60. 02-638623, NS.
FAKE FUR JACKET - size 12, dark brown, NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-513696, after 3 p.m., NS.
MICRO-CASSETTE RECORDER - Sony, NIS 250; Kodak-disc camera, NIS 50. 02-561232, eve.
HEADSET TELEPHONE - (no handset), NIS 150; Kitan multi-covered comforter cover, king size, NIS 60; Philips electronic curling iron with steam, NIS 50. 02-710927.
BED - NIS 130; spiciness, NIS 35; table, NIS 100; bag on wheels, NIS 35. 02-660598.
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JOHNNY WALKER BIRD - NIS 75; Barcelona rum, NIS 100; Emmet, NIS 47; Moskovaya, NIS 45. 02-283869.
GAS HEATER - De Longhi, like new, NIS 300. 02-712203.
CURTAINS - light mauve, NIS 300. 02-663622.
SOLID WOOD TABLE - new from Ikea, 120x75 cm, NIS 300. 02-663622.
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STAMPS - also, exchange folk guitar lessons for handmade gifts on professional level. 04-234335.
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PETS
ADOPT A PET - selection of dogs and cats awaiting good homes at the Jerusalem SPCA. Atarot. 02-851531.
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Eight churches vs Israel

LED by Cardinal William Keeler, president of the US Catholic Conference and Archbishop of Baltimore, eight church leaders urged President Bill Clinton on Tuesday "to press Israel to stop expanding its presence in Jerusalem."

Not surprisingly, leaders of Jewish organizations in New York were "shocked and angered" by the move. They have been conducting a friendly and seemingly fruitful dialogue with some of these Christian churchmen for many years, and they view the churches' move against Israel as a betrayal. World Jewish Congress Secretary-General Yisrael Singer was incensed enough to suggest that questioning Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel casts doubt on the sincerity of the Christian leaders' pronouncements against antisemitism.

It would be foolish to suppose that the church leaders - almost all of whom represent denominations with substantial following in the Middle East - have made this move unprompted. As Cardinal Keeler said, the meeting with Clinton was set "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so dramatically in recent years." That they are genuinely concerned about the state of these flocks is as indisputable as it is justified.

As one church official has put it, "To be a minority in the East implies being subject to abuse and mistreatment. There is no need to refer to ancient history to confirm this. We have seen in this century the genocide of the Armenian people of Turkey, the massacre of the Assyrian-Nestorians in Iraq, and of the Christians of Southern Sudan... Religious fundamentalism which does not shy from violence is rampant."

"The Copts in Egypt, one of the preferred targets of Islamic fundamentalists, are emigrating by the thousands to more benign places or - unable to resist the social pressures - convert to the Moslem faith. According to the estimates of the local church, about 15,000 Copts convert to Islam every year. Some 300,000 Lebanese Christians have left their country since the 1970s, without hope of returning. And how many Christians will be left in Bethlehem in a few years?"

Clearly, the church leaders know that the pressures on the Christians in the region are strictly Islamic. In Israel the number of Christians has more than quadrupled since the establishment of the state. But the church leaders are obviously intimidated enough by the threat and practice of violence to believe that, by joining the Moslem campaign against what Yasser Arafat calls "the Judaization of Jerusalem," they will placate their nemesis.

Regrettably, American church leaders - pressed by their Middle Eastern colleagues -

have now joined in this campaign. (Most of the Protestant denominations, to their credit, have kept away from the initiative, and the evangelical churches are more supportive of Israel than ever. But they have virtually no flocks in the region.)

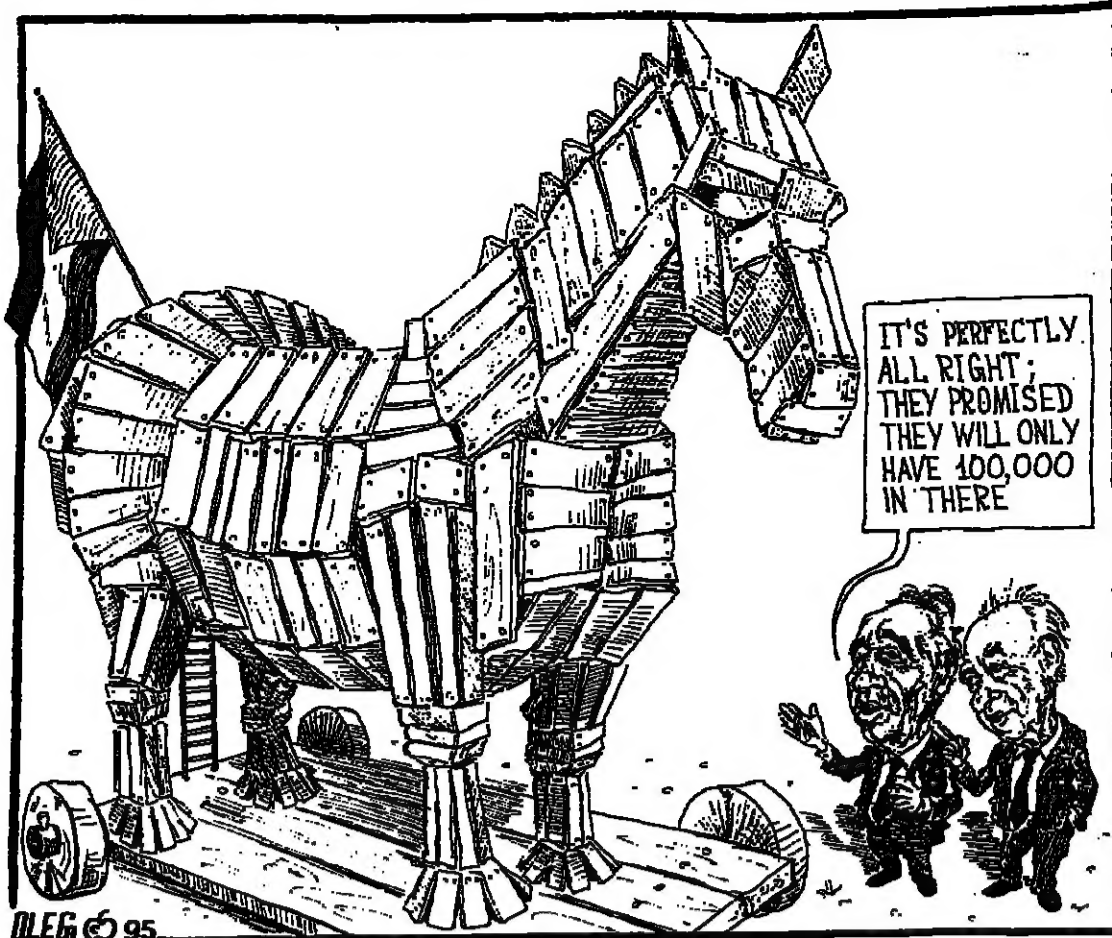
It is not a new campaign. Launched by Arafat more than a decade ago in an effort to achieve Christian support, it has included the ludicrous attempt to "de-Judaize" Jesus and "Palestinize" him. As a Jordanian TV production once put it, "The Jews murdered Jesus, the Palestinian prophet." Presumably educated Palestinian Arab Christians like PLO official Hanan Ashrawi have made the intelligence-insulting claim that they can trace their ancestry to the first Christians. Arafat, who never fails to mention churches as well as mosques as the edifices on which the Palestinian flag will be hoisted when Jerusalem becomes the Palestinian capital, has described the Apostle Paul as "a Palestinian who defied Rome."

It may be prudent for the church leaders to recall some recent history. After the eastern part of Jerusalem fell to the Arab Legion in 1948, the Jordanian administration began a process of Islamization of the Christian Quarter of the Old City. This included a ban on Christian purchase of real estate, strict control of charitable and educational institutions, compulsory closure of schools on Moslem holy days, a curriculum of Moslem teachings, and the building of mosques next to churches to prevent Christian expansion.

Since 1967, Christian religious sites and cemeteries have been desecrated. Slogans like "Islam will win" and "First the Saturday people then the Sunday people" have been painted on walls, PLO flags draped over crosses, and a PLO flag was painted on one of the domes of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

In the Bethlehem area, intimidation prevented Christian families from celebrating Christmas and Easter during the intifada. Christian shops which remained open despite the threats were set on fire, and a 64-year-old Christian pilgrim was murdered by an Arab youth near Manger Square.

By pointing to Israel's "expansion" in Jerusalem rather than at the prospect of Moslem domination as the threat to Christians and the Christian holy places, the American church leaders are continuing a tradition of appeasement. The very same churches which have not raised their voices against the persecution and murder of Christians in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Sudan joined the pope in opposing the world community's intervention against Saddam Hussein. That they have chosen the path of Israel-baiting can only lead to the sad conclusion that it is not courage and morality which rule in some of today's churches, but unprincipled, abject cowardice.



Dust gets in your eyes

WHAT is all this nonsense the public is being fed about a mysterious bomb engineer, a mastermind on the loose around Hebron? The impression seems to be that all we have to do is catch this super-brain and terrorist attacks will cease.

"That's just as misleading as claiming that the sole reason for our failure to halt terrorism is the impossibility of stopping suicide bombers."

His voice filled with indignation, the veteran Israeli security expert, a man who has fought terror for most of his adult life, told us: "The public is having dust thrown in its eyes. The traditional belief is that our intelligence community is invincible and hence sacred, and so it is never challenged, even when it makes mistakes."

"People accept the super-engineer theory because they know nothing about bomb-making," said our source. "Look, I can show you how to make a bomb - suicide-type or any other - in five minutes. You can become an expert by fitting two switches instead of one, so that you don't blow yourself up by accident."

"So much for this 'Einstein' they claim they are searching for here and everywhere. And if he is so important, why haven't they caught him anyway?"

There is no difference, our source said, between a terrorist who plants a bomb on a bus or in a supermarket and walks away and one who ties a bomb to his body and becomes part of it. "This kind of terrorist has been turned into a heroic figure, a myth, and called invincible. Dead, yes. But invincible? No more than any other terrorist."

Explaining the nature of "true" suicide bombers, the veteran expert recalled the Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II. "That's a totally different story," he said. "They were highly trained, skilled individuals, used because Tokyo had no other way of stopping American battleships sailing to conquer their homeland."

"But the Americans didn't cave in and offer Japan California as appeasement after a couple of kamikaze actions succeeded. They settled the matter by dropping atomic bombs on Japan."

Naturally, our source said, the situation today in Israel isn't comparable. But the lesson is clear: When you're being attacked mercilessly, you can't give in. You must hit back - hard. All the stories about a super-bomb-maker and unstoppable suicide fanatics are nothing more

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

than a smoke screen erected by the intelligence community to hide major failures. The bombers and the bomb-maker are merely the tip of the iceberg. Underneath lies a ramified terror network.

INTELLIGENCE work requires a massive effort to find the source of explosives, where they are stored, and how they are carried to points all over the country. The terrorists themselves must do painstaking detective work be-

Israeli intelligence isn't doing enough to trap the 'invincible' suicide bombers

fore deciding where to carry out an attack. This requires hundreds of informers employed to spot weak points where "enemy" subversion is lax. A terror group needs to gather precise details: where soldiers congregate, on what days, where their major assembly points are, where they are most crowded and vulnerable. Then they need to decide where to hide their bombs and which cars to steal to deliver the goods. All this requires a skilled organizational effort.

Our source talked about the psychological aspect. "Terrorists want to know what will happen if they are caught. If it means 20 or 30 years, or even a life in prison, plus the houses of their families being blown up, very few will actively cooperate. I know that from first-hand experience. But risks become acceptable when there is a belief that they will be freed soon, as frequently happens."

To run an intelligence service efficiently, according to this expert, there is no need to waste time reading books on the motivation of suicide bombers, or hunting super-engineers hiding out in underground bunkers in Kalkiya and, more recently, in Gaza.

Many more people must be recruited to intelligence work than are recruited now, the expert continued. They must be diverted from army service. In any event, he said, we have been told that the army has enough fighting men.

You can't ask soldiers to guard other soldiers at assembly points, on buses or in schools, he pointed out. Soldiers are trained as fighters.

ers, not security personnel. Take a place like Beit Lid (and some 40 others like it), he said. How much would it cost to get one or two well-trained security men sitting in an office with cameras and other electronic equipment, watching carefully what is happening down below? Such people would know what to look for, and react accordingly - and promptly.

"We must put a priority on protecting Israelis above all else," said this man and others connected with intelligence issues that we spoke to. Everything possible must be done to stop violence, whoever the perpetrators are.

"Far too much time and energy was wasted on the recent Edri case and the so-called settlers' underground movement a few years ago. Hundreds of hours were spent tracking settlers' every movement, waiting for them to act. How simple it would have been to give the people involved a quiet warning, right at the beginning. It would have stopped them immediately."

Said another man, involved in intelligence work: "The government now admits that Yasser Arafat may not be capable of stopping terrorist attacks, that he might not even want to. This means we must rethink the whole concept of Oslo. It has no divine force, after all."

Nor can we assume that if there have been no terrorist attacks since Beit Lid, this means "that Arafat has managed to bring Hamas under control." The intelligence services themselves admit as much.

Again and again Israelis have been told that Hamas is gathering strength, organizing and increasing its hold over the entire Moslem population. Hamas needs dead Israelis to maintain its momentum. Palestinians in Gaza and the territories make a joke out of fanciful tales of Hamas activists being arrested by Arafat's police. Their mockery is open.

If anything, Arab terrorists are encouraged by signs of Israeli surrender. This week's talks, involving Israeli officials, about allowing vast numbers of Arabs who fled in the Six Day War to return is a sure sign to both Arafat and Hamas that the more Jews killed, the bigger the rewards.

This can only strengthen the terrorist movements - and make the task of security all the more difficult.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Bully boys

ESTHER HERTZOG

THE "Adi Tzema affair" exploded in the media amid a growing debate over sexist slurs against women by men in senior positions.

Who can forget Col. Gershon Hacohen's astonishing "whores" remark, or President Weizman calling Science Minister Shulamit Aloni "an old bag" and a few other things so disrespectful that the media didn't dare report them? Then there was Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, who slammed MK Esther Salmovitz for "prostitute-like behavior," while she was acting Knesset speaker.

Most reminiscent of the Tzema affair is the recent scandal over Rafik Haj Yihya, mayor of Taibe, who reportedly admitted to a *Ha'aretz* journalist that he had used "physical means" against his wife.

Violence against women has become the subject of endless articles and talk shows. Can that be anything but a giant advance in the battle by and on behalf of women?

The answer seems to be yes. Amid all the talk, there has been little real action. And some people in high positions are even attempting to throttle the debate, waving the banner of "rights of the individual," and trumpeting Tami Tzema's "right to privacy."

Aloni, interviewed last week in Netanya, demanded an end to the "lynch" against the notorious philosophy professor. And radio jour-

Wife abuse: privacy vs. public interest

nalist Edna Pe'er went so far as to warn the "petty lynch" that their actions could lead other battered women to suffer in silence, from fear of the harm publicity could cause them and their children.

THE IMPLICATION seems to be that if violence against women isn't publicized, it will magically stop. Unfortunately, this optimism isn't borne out by the facts.

Adi Tzema humiliated some of his women students - he told one who complained that a book cost too much to go into the streets and "earn" the money to buy it - but it was hushed up. That didn't cause him to turn over a new leaf.

His wife's reservations about all the media attention, some of it sensational, is understandable. But surely the publicity is a far better guarantor of her husband's future good behavior toward her than silence and secrecy would have been? In her report to the police, she said she had suffered "serious injury" from her husband.

Tami Tzema rejected the large groundswell of support that was forming in the wake of revelations of the abuse she had suffered, support that would likely have encouraged many battered women to come forward, in spite of their social circumstances. She could have set a shining example to those women, and been a warning to the violent men in their lives. And, in the glare of the limelight, the police and the courts would have had to think about brushing up their act.

On the radio this week, legal expert Moshe Negbi gave an unequivocal answer to the privacy/publicity question. A violent act is a criminal act, he said, and as such is of public interest and cannot be kept quiet.

The paramount concern here isn't the public's "right to know." It is women's right to live in safety. And bringing wife abuse out into the open can only serve to protect women at risk from violent partners.

There is no justification in citing the "privacy" argument as an excuse to end the public debate and remove the spotlight from "closed" units like the family, the kibbutz, the haredi community, and the Arab sector.

Silence may salvage the pride of both abuser and victim; but this, surely, is an unacceptable price to pay for continuing and increased vulnerability to violent male domination.

Bullies prey on the weak and defenseless. Whatever strength women can amass, individually and collectively, will act as a deterrent to those who would abuse them.

The writer lectures on sociology and anthropology at Beit Berl College in Kfar Sava.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADVICE TO TOURISTS

Sir, - On March 6, you published a letter from Walter Rosen of New York under the heading, "Advice to tourists." In it, he quotes a telephone conversation which he claims took place between Minister Shulamit Aloni and a Manhattan UJA leader and in the course of which the minister allegedly advised tourists not to visit Israel (following the Beit Lid attack).

This conversation never took place. The words attributed to the minister were never uttered. Not only did she never say them, but they are diametrically opposed to her views on the subject, namely that Israel is one of the safest countries in the world for visitors and residents alike. It is a country good to live in and safe and beautiful to visit. Only a mistake or evil intent could have attributed the alleged quotation to Minister Aloni.

LEA LIEBERMAN-BENDER, Media Adviser to the Minister of Communications, Science and Arts Jerusalem.

GOVERNMENT PLOY

Sir, - Last summer, about a dozen people were arrested with banner headlines and photographs screaming "Jewish terrorist underground!" In the end, not a single charge of conspiracy of terrorism was upheld against anyone. After lengthy interrogations and jail, everyone was released.

There was no "terrorist underground." It was all a government ploy to undermine the position of Israeli citizens who live in Yeshah. Incredibly, "K" the person responsible for this outrage against democracy, has become the head of the GSS - Israel's "secret service." In any other civilized country, he and the minister of police would be forced to resign immediately, along with anyone else responsible for it. Have we taken a giant step towards a police state?

MOSHE DANN Jerusalem.

PROTECTION FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Sir, - I recently read about the demonstration of several dozen taxi drivers, demanding additional security measures for taxi-cabs.

One of the drivers quoted stated that without protection, the drivers were easy targets. He also added that he wanted protection "like in New York." That line struck me; whenever anyone expresses a concern about visiting Israel for safety reasons, I always tell them that if they can survive living in New York City, they can make it anywhere.

Then again, there are measures that we all take to protect ourselves, and in New York City government, we are especially aware of taking those opportunities. The Taxi and Limousine Commission, the regulatory agency of the New York taxi industry, has mandated several measures to protect both the taxi driver and passenger.

Bullet-proof barriers can be found between the front and back seat of every New York City medallion cab, with an opening for sliding fare through to the driver. Each cab must also post its identifying medallion number as well as a current photo of the driver. If the photo doesn't match the driver, passengers know not to get into the taxi.

These are two simple measures that protect drivers and riders. I would urge the Israeli taxi industry to create similar regulations; we don't want any more Rafi Cohens.

COUNCILMAN NOACH DEAR, Chairman New York City Council Transportation Committee New York.

HENRY PURCELL

Sir, - May I correct Michael Ajzenstadt's statement in *Critic's* choice of March 5 concerning a concert in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth: 1995 is the commemoration of the year of his death.

NOMI KALISCH Netanya.

DISCRIMINATION

Sir, - So Helen Golan (Readers' Letters, March 1) approves of "housing monitoring committees" to keep the riffraff out of haredi neighborhoods. The idea smacks of the *Judenrein* policies of the Nazis, or even closer in time, the recently abandoned apartheid policy in South Africa.

Golan further compounds her offensive attitude, and displays deplorable ignorance, by including homosexuality as one of the "calamities" to be avoided. Gay men and women are living quietly among us as law-abiding citizens, and their presence is neither a scourge nor a calamity. Helen Golan and others may want to know the only way to guarantee that they will not have gay children is to make sure that they never give birth at all. Discriminating against the neighbors has nothing to do with it.

JONATHAN DANILOWITZ Tel Aviv.

TV LISTINGS

Sir, - Quite by chance, one Saturday evening at 8:30 I tuned in to TV Channel 3; to my delight I watched an episode of *Yes Minister*.

Seemingly, during some evenings, when the third channel is not covering debates at the Knesset, programs of interest are screened. Presumably the third channel schedules these additional programs at least a week in advance and details could be made available to *The Jerusalem Post*.

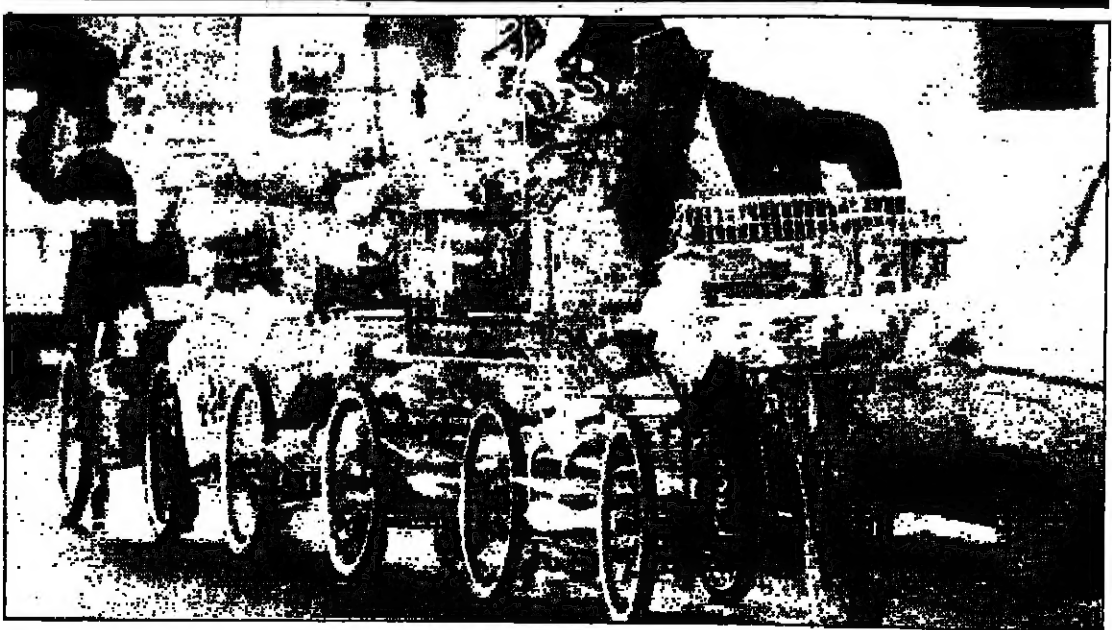
Would it be possible for you to publish this schedule in your weekly *Time Out* supplement?

The BBC World Television Service screens a number of interesting programs, in addition to their hourly world news. Could you publish details of these programs as well?

ELLIS WYNNICK Rehovot.

We are planning to expand our *Time Out* supplement, at which time we may have the space necessary for these additional listings. - Ed. J.P.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Herbert Perry maneuvers his 13-wheeled mobile mini-mart through the streets of Chicago. The 54-year-old mogul sells such items as socks, wallets, cassettes and incense. "Every time I see it, it just amazes me more and more," says Nelson Ware, a customer of Perry's.

The Jerusalem Post
Bully boys
ESTHER HERTZOG

Go to join your husband; your child will adapt

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My husband had to go abroad to work. He's been gone almost half a year. We have a nine-year-old daughter, in the third grade.

We planned to join him later this year, but I'm worried about our relationship, because we are far apart. So I'm considering going now. Should I take my daughter out of school in the middle of the year? Or should I sacrifice seeing my husband?

Another thing is bothering me: I want another child, but my husband doesn't seem interested. What shall I do?

Oceans Apart and Anxious
Eilat

Dear Apart and Anxious,

Taking your daughter out of school in the middle of the year is not the end of the world. She will have to adjust to a new school next year, anyway.

Unless she has exceptional difficulty adjusting to new surroundings, you should base your decision on whether you can stand another half-year away from your husband. If you are genuinely worried about the relationship suffering as a result of your separation, then consider joining him now.

The issue of having another baby will have to be postponed, in any case, until you and your husband are reunited. After you move, you, too, will be adjusting to new surroundings.

You will have to readjust to living as a couple again. It might be inappropriate to get pregnant right away.

Once settled abroad as a family, however, your husband might view the prospect of another child differently.

Dear Ruthie,

This winter, my wife and I have been coming down periodically with various "bugs." This may sound weird, but it has put a real strain on our marriage. We end up arguing over who feels worse (especially when it comes to tak-

ing care of our two-year-old son), and even when it comes to taking care of one another. We can't stop bickering. I just don't know what to do.

Virus Vexed
Hod Hasharon

Dear VV,

Competition about which of you is more ill, and thus more deserving of consideration, is no different from many other marital squabbles. "Scorekeeping" is always a recipe for failure, if not disaster. Admittedly, having a toddler doesn't help, since being sick makes parenting that much more arduous.

When you both feel better, you should sit down together and examine the root of your inability to "take turns" being needy. If this difficulty arose when you were ill, it was probably there before, albeit cloaked differently. If so, you have identified a part of your marriage that needs work.

Dear Ruthie,

A close friend is about to leave her husband. I think she's making a terrible mistake. I've tried to tell her this, but she is not receptive. Is it my place to make a stronger effort to prevent a good friend from walking head-on into what I believe is disaster?

Fearful Friend
Jerusalem

Dear FF,

As a good friend, it is your place to listen, not to preach. If she asks your advice, offer it. Keep in mind, though, that she may not accept it, or at least, not all of it. Often, advice is solicited as a way of examining as many sides of an issue as possible.

Your prediction of disaster may not be fulfilled; you may not be aware of all the factors behind your friend's decision to leave her husband.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

BOOKS

LEON FORREST

THE WEDDING by Dorothy West. Doubleday. \$28. 240 pp.

Many seasons back, a highly placed socialite of Creole extraction ("bright, light and damn near white," as the saying went) was explaining why a certain talented, fair-skinned Negro lady just could not, and would not fit into "my social circle; we just can't do anything with her socially."

The refined Creole matron explained: "You see, Leon, she's a white man's child," which meant that this lady's parents—given the laws against intermarriage in the South—were not married. The lady was not only a bastard; she was also engaged to a dark-skinned gentleman, whose features were "less than Greek." To marry a dark-skinned man or woman was a cardinal sin.

It was also a sin to marry a white man, or woman. Upon the rickety ladder of Negro social respectability and position, there were certain immutable laws for mulattoes, quadroons, blacks and others.

Few writers know the hard realities of black miscegenation and cultural assimilation better than Dorothy West, the legendary writer of the Harlem Renaissance, still alive and going strong at 88. In *The Wedding*, her first published novel since the 1948 printing of *The Living Is Easy*, she deftly satirizes the black Boston elite.

The Wedding is a novel of manners, set in the early 1950s but mainly going back in time. Yet West has cast her drama on the cutting edge of American history: in the last gasps of the old traditions, less than a decade before the rise of the black consciousness movement and the attempt to shed the shackles of "exquisite brightness and color-struck madness."

West has continued a tradition started in the Harlem Renaissance of revealing how much of the soul of the African-American race is being lost to the plague of color and caste. The Renaissance sought a return to the spirituality of the Southern Negro ethos: to sing work-songs and the blues, and to preserve certain African traditions.

Jean Toomer's *Cane*—the finest novel of the Renaissance—seethes with issues of class and



In the Deep South, Negroes made social laws for blacks, mulattoes, quadroons and others; the old traditions lasted until just before the rise of the black consciousness movement. (UPI)

social status based on the motifs of color and beauty, baseness and refinement. West's novel shows why the "black is beautiful" slogan emerged from the depths of suppression.

In *The Wedding*, Dr. Clark Coles and his wife Corinne have flourished socially, but not privately. They exist on the tiny, isolated strip of land occupied by pompous upper-crust, fair-skinned Negroes on the skirts of Martha's Vineyard that West calls (as if to parody Fitzgerald's "East Egg" in *The Great Gatsby*) "The Oval."

The Coleses' daughters have elected to be the breakers of fiercely held traditions. The older girl, Liz, has married a dark-skinned black. However, she is saved from social oblivion be-

cause he is a physician. Liz's younger sister Shelby is about to upstage her sibling's outrage by marrying a white jazz musician, Meade Wyler. We are 24 hours from the wedding bells.

If this isn't socially unsettling enough, a successful furniture-maker, who is dark-skinned and frantic for a social entree, has recently taken a summer cabin within The Oval. He is the father of several daughters by white women he has scorned or divorced. Lute McNeil emerges as a wanna-be savior for Shelby.

He has sold himself on the idea that final social acclaim lies with marrying (or is it bedding down?) Shelby Cole, who is fair enough to pass for white. We have the material, then, of a taboo-breaking opera, a tragic love story.

Yet West abruptly breaks away from the well-crafted early structure of her novel, and takes the reader into a long, galloping tale of the Old South and miscegenation, with the intrigue of Shelby's parents' bloodlines as its center. All of this goes on much too long, and we really do hunger for West to reroute this saga and get us to the church (and the wedding) on time.

West rounds up her cast of characters in the last third of the novel, wherein we discover that Clark Coles is actually a very unhappy man on the day before his daughter's wedding.

He has suffered through a marriage arranged around class and color, but not love. He has kept a beautiful, deep-brown-skinned mistress to help him make it

through the night, over most of the years of his marriage.

A day before the nuptials, Coles receives notification of another wedding. His mistress Rachel (who has also worked as his nurse and assistant) pens him a letter revealing that by time he receives her "Dear John" missive, she will be married to someone else. Tired of playing "the other woman," Rachel is wedding a common city worker, not particularly for love, but for security.

This crushing epistle drives Coles into a confessional tirade with his daughter Shelby, in which old dad acknowledges "Meade's love" for his daughter and then accuses her of never getting serious about any black men.

"I can't help but think that maybe that's because the man who should be the most important man in your life never found time to show you the love he felt. I've never seen you give your respect to a black man, and I can't help but think that maybe that's some warped extension of this family's social snobbery. And if that's all true... then I will do anything in my power to make sure this marriage does not happen."

Following hot on the heels of her father's departure is a letter from Lute McNeil (who has been missing in action for nearly 200 pages). Lute tries to arrange a rendezvous with the bride-to-be. We are informed that Lute's "been stalking Shelby all summer."

Because all this occurs so late in the book, we are a little unsettled (though not shocked) by the sudden turn of events. We are aware that Shelby protests too much about her racial loyalties despite the fact that she is marrying a white man.

Lute captures some of her dilemma, and maybe hits Shelby in her natural solar plexus when he says:

"You're on the brink of turning your back on your family, your community, your race, all for some white-bread fantasy you don't half understand."

This is a good bit of dramatic irony, for Lute's words reflect the life he has lived.

Lute really is something of an African-American *Great Gatsby*.

His role in the novel's last phases, harks directly back to Fitzgerald's masterpiece of the beautiful, deep-brown-skinned mistress to help him make it (Los Angeles Times)

Fed up with nail-scarred walls? Hang your pictures from rails

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

HANGING pictures, usually the last task in a new or freshly painted apartment, ties even decisive people into knots.

It's hard enough trying to figure out the right place for each picture. If you change your mind after you've drilled a hole or hammered a nail, or get new furniture and need to move pictures, you're stuck with a scarred wall until the next paint job.

One solution is to put up a rail from which pictures can be suspended. This will allow you to move them to your heart's content without marring the wall.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

One aluminum curtain rail (*mesila levilon*); plastic "eyes" (*galgalim lamesila shel havilon*) that slide onto the rail (costing about 10 agorot per unit, but NIS 2 for a package of 50 in a chain hardware store); a spool of

fishing line (*hui dayagim*)—check the label to see the weight it is meant for; drill + 3 or 4 mm metal bit (*makde'ah barzel*) and 6 mm masonry bit (*makde'ah vidda*); anchors (*dibbelim*) and screws (*bragim*) to fit the 6 mm bit; screwdriver; tape measure; a thin sharpened pencil; scissors.

Curtain rails can be purchased at curtain/fabric shops or do-it-yourself hardware stores. They come in six-meter lengths (about NIS 8 per meter) and can be cut at the shop to any measurement.

If your rail is to be wall-to-wall, allow for 1-2 cm access on either end for insertion of plastic eyes (that is, subtract 2-4 cm from the measurement of the wall).

On a long wall, using two rails with a space in between will make hanging the pictures easier.

Rails come in natural aluminum color, gold or white. They can be painted over with regular wall paint for camouflage.

DIRECTIONS

Using the metal bit, drill holes into the smooth side of the rail (at the point at which its opposite

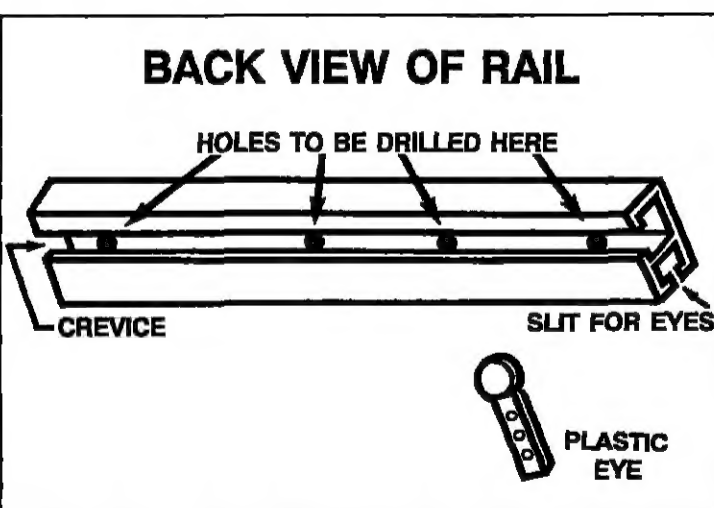
side has a "crevice"), one hole at either end of the rail and the others at intervals not exceeding 80 cm. Drilling can be done on the floor. To avoid damage to the floor, place a piece of wood under the rail while drilling.

If you want the rail to be near the ceiling, allow for the size of the drill. The drill must be horizontal while working. Hold it as if to begin drilling, and measure the distance from the ceiling to the bit.

Mark with a pencil. Measure the distance from the end of the rail to the first hole.

Measure the distance from the edge of the wall to the rail. The sum of these two will give you the horizontal mark made in the previous step. Mark with a pencil. Using the masonry bit, drill a hole into the spot you've just marked. Use the hammer mode on the drill only if the bit doesn't enter the wall smoothly. (The hole should be about 1/2 cm deeper than its intended anchor.)

Insert an anchor into the hole, tapping gently with the handle of



the screwdriver until it's completely inserted.

Hold the rail flat against the wall so that the "slit" for the eyes is pointing downwards, and the wider "crevice" is facing the wall.

Align the first hole with the anchored hole on the wall. Insert a screw loosely into the anchor (through the rail).

If the rail is long, you will now

need assistance. Get someone to hold the rail at its unattached end against the wall, keeping it level and flat against the wall. With the pencil, trace the rest of the holes of the rail onto the wall. Remove the screw, and put the rail aside.

Your wall should now have one anchor, and a horizontal row of circular pencil markings.

With the masonry bit, drill

each subsequent hole exactly as you did the first. Insert anchors.

Place the rail on the wall (again making sure that the "slit" for the eyes is pointing downwards, and the "crevice" is against the wall), aligning its holes with the anchors. Insert screws with the screwdriver.

Slide plastic eyes onto the rail from the edge. The top of the eye has a bulging circular tip which fits into the "slit" of the rail. Use twice as many eyes as pictures to be hung.

Cut as many pieces of fishing line as there are eyes. The pieces should be way too long (to allow leeway for tying and adjusting). The excess can be cut later.

Each eye has three tiny holes from top to bottom. Tie the fishing line only to the top or middle hole.

As nylon thread tends to come undone, tie at least four knots tightly, or any strong type of "Boy Scout" knot.

Now you should have a hori-

zontal rail on the wall with single pieces of fishing line dangling downwards.

Each pair of threaded eyes will hold a picture. (If the picture is very heavy, use heavier fishing line, and attach it to two or three eyes on each side.)

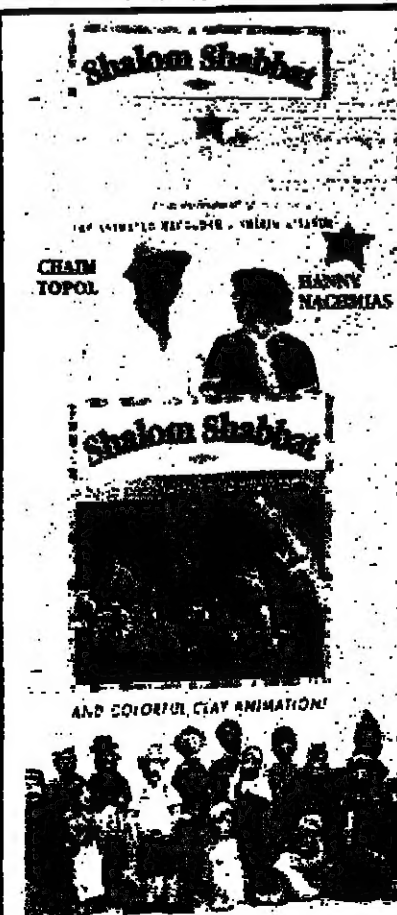
Most pictures have metal hooks on the back through which is tied some kind of string or wire for hanging. You don't have to remove the wire. Just use the hooks when attaching the fishing line.

After determining the desired spot and height of the picture to be hung, tie the first one piece of fishing line to one hook on the picture, and then its counterpart.

Before tying tightly (again, several knots), adjust. Remove excess line with scissors.

Repeat for each picture.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



Stories and songs on videocassette for the entire family with Chaim Topol and Hanny Nachmias. Traditional and contemporary Shabbat songs and stories have been adapted with modern arrangements in this delightful program for all ages. Includes *Lecha Dodi*, *Shalom Aleichem*, *Hinei Ma Tov*, *Yedid Nefesh* and twenty others. Stories are portrayed in colorful clay animation. 45 min. Songs in Hebrew, narrative in English. Produced by Scopus Films.

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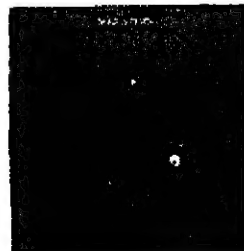
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112 simple, yet different recipes from the kitchens of the many excellent cooks who have settled in the Land of Israel. Softcover, top spiral bound, 6th ed., 128 pp. By Friesem & Horreich.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1995

Foreign currency borrowing in '95 soars to \$1.7b.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE public borrowed \$1.7 billion in foreign currency to cash in on high shekel interest rates in the past two months, according to the Bank of Israel's Supervisor of Foreign Currency annual report issued yesterday.

The increase in foreign currency credit reflected the large difference between interest rates here and abroad and the public's perception that the risk of a shekel devaluation was low.

Throughout 1994, foreign currency borrowing jumped to \$2b. compared with only \$100 million in the previous year.

By contrast, foreigners avoided investing in shekel-denominated interest-bearing instruments, concluding that the devaluation risk was higher than the margin between shekel and foreign interest rates.

Foreigners' net investment in local securities totaled \$200m. last year. Financial and capital investments by foreigners exceeded Israeli investment abroad by \$439m., a 303% increase from the previous year.

Despite the increase in last year's trade deficit, the private non-banking sector financed the foreign currency gap, including \$3.8b. in unilateral transfers and \$2.4b. in foreign credit. As a result, private sector financing shot up 67.6 percent over 1993.

The government's net external debt rose by \$2b., mostly due to the use of US loan guarantee funds.

Both banks and institutional investors reduced their investments abroad, as foreign investments made up only 0.6% of their assets compared with 1.5% in 1993 and 2.1% in 1992.

Court cancels restraining order for Shipyards sale to SKO Car Workers protest against continued privatization

Post Business Staff

TEL Aviv District Court President Dr. Eliyahu Winograd canceled the temporary restraining order completing the sale of Israel Shipyards to the SKO Car group yesterday.

After the announcement, which allows for the privatization of the company to proceed, Shipyards employees blocked the factory's entrance, burned tires, and stopped work.

The workers even threatened to burn or release the firm's prototype of the Shaldag, its new

ship model. The failure of the company to sell even one Shaldag is considered to be a main reason for recent Shipyards losses.

The restraining order had been granted at the end of February following a request by Admiral Shipping and Investment, the other group bidding for Shipyards. The group claimed that its second round bid was higher than SKO Car's bid, and since the round operated under a "best

and final" principle, Admiral was entitled to purchase Shipyards.

In a third round of bidding, SKO Car's bid of 40 million shekels was NIS 7m. higher than Admiral's.

In their response to the court, SKO Car claimed that it won the bid fairly, and Admiral's "best and final" claim was not valid.

The state also told the court that it supported SKO Car's position, and that a "best and final" principle was never mentioned, which is why Admiral agreed to a third round of bidding.

Shohat adopts free voucher plan

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday announced that he has adopted the recommendations to distribute free vouchers to the public for the purchase of state-owned companies and banks, and that the cabinet will consider the proposal on Sunday.

A committee headed by Finance Ministry director-general David Brodet to study the possibility of distributing shares of state-owned companies presented Shohat its recommendations at the end of last month.

Under the plan, the government will distribute free vouchers worth between NIS 400 and

NIS 600 that could be sold on the stock market or be used to purchase a package of shares of firms that are being privatized.

Everyone included in the voter registry - about 3 million citizens - will be entitled to receive the free vouchers for the purchase of a package of about NIS 2,000 worth of shares.

'Check investment request fraud'

EVELYN GORDON

A PARLIAMENTARY committee of inquiry should be set up to investigate the fraudulent acquisition of grants from the Industry Ministry's investment center between 1985 and 1991, MK Shlomo Buhbut (Labor) demanded yesterday.

Buhbut has not yet submitted a formal proposal for such a committee, because new Labor faction rules require him to get prior approval from the faction before making such a motion.

"However, the Knesset yesterday voted 10-2 to refer the general issue of the fraudulent grant requests to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

"I am talking about acts of fraud [which have cost] billions of dollars," Buhbut told the Knesset. "When public money is involved, a wide-reaching investi-



Buhbut: Billions of dollars of fraud have been perpetrated by investors. (Israel Talley)

igation is required, and not just a discussion in the Finance Com-

mittee. Billions of dollars... is no laughing matter."

Buhbut said acts of fraud had been perpetrated by numerous investors. In two different ways. In some cases, investors presented plans with exaggeratedly high costs and submitted fictitious receipts. For instance, he said, some demanded - and got - grants based on a building cost of up to \$1,280 per square meter, when the actual costs were only some \$300 per sq. m.

In other cases, investors took the grant money and never even built the factory for which it was earmarked. The investment center knows of some \$300 million stolen from it in this fashion, which it has been unable to recover, he said.

Altogether, Buhbut said, plans worth \$6.5 billion were approved by the center between 1985 and 1991, each of which was eligible for grants of up to 38%.

Migdal's SOS policy: In search of travelers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MIGDAL Insurance Company has established an SOS insurance policy, which is intended to locate and rescue Israeli travelers missing abroad. According to the firm, this is the first policy of its kind offered here.

The policy includes sending a professional search team abroad to track down missing Israeli travelers. The policy, which costs \$2.50 per day, will be available at the end of the month.

Migdal general manager Uzi Levy said the plan offers a professional service to the families of young people who take extended trips to such distant locations as the Far East, South America, and Africa.

He said Migdal spent a number of months working on the develop-

ment of the policy.

According to Levy, more than 30,000 young people travel for extended periods of time to distant locations each year. He said some of them lose contact with their families during the course of their travels, and some are killed in disasters.

Levy said Migdal contacted former General Security Service agents, Tuvia Livneh and Yisrael Shai, who were involved in planning security and searching for missing people. They currently head an international investigation, guide, and professional security firm.

Migdal said the company has agreed to locate policy holders who are missing overseas.

Self-employed group fights for income tax cuts

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bureau of Organizations for the Self-Employed yesterday launched a campaign to cut individual income taxes by NIS 4 billion until 1997.

Bureau president Moshe Kur-nick called for "a fight against the heavy tax burden, which leads to a lack of economic activity."

According to him, marginal tax rates, including the health and National Insurance Institute (NII) taxes, reach 55% for indi-

viduals with a gross monthly income of NIS 6,100. This seriously reduces the incentive to expand a small business or to work overtime, he said.

Kurnick said the program was "minimalistic" since it relies on tax cuts of NIS 2.4b., which the government has already approved for 1996 and 1997, and only requires an additional bud-

get reduction of NIS 300 million to start phasing-in the tax cut in July.

The remaining NIS 1.3b. of the tax reduction will come from higher tax revenues generated by the lower tax burden.

Should the government adopt the proposal, there would be only four tax brackets by 1997, with the highest marginal rate of 48%. The

lowest bracket of 15% will apply to income of up to NIS 3,000, instead of NIS 2,800 today; 30% for income of up to NIS 10,000, instead of NIS 6,000; and 38% for income of up to NIS 16,000, instead of a rate of 45% for income of up to NIS 11,800.

The bureau presented the proposal last week to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and has sent it to the prime minister and to the Histadrut.

Game teaches players how to avoid AIDS

MARTHA MEISELS

AN original Israeli parlor game designed to teach players how to avoid AIDS was released yesterday by its manufacturer, Regev Games of Kibbutz Regavim near Binyamina.

Medical consultant to the manufacturer was Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan, director of the AIDS Department at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital.

The game is a variation on Spin-The-Bottle, in which players answer AIDS-related questions printed on cards resembling comic strips. Combining knowledge and luck, the game is intended for four or more players, aged 12 and up. The player holding the least "dangerous behavior cards" at the end of the game is the winner.

In Hebrew, the AIDS game is called *Al Hahaim ve al Hamavet* ("On Life and Death"), while a simultaneously-released English version is entitled *AIDS Counter-AIDS*. It will retail here for NIS 89.

The game was an attention-getter at yesterday's sneak press preview of the forthcoming Israel Toys '95 fair, to take place March 20-22 at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds. Entrance is for buyers only.

The local toys-and-games sector is facing a year of uncertainty with the anticipated arrival of American giant Toys 'R Us on the retail scene here this summer, a spokesman for the local toy industry told reporters.

Elbit's '94 profits fall to \$30m. from \$41m.

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELBIT reported a drop in 1994 net profits to \$30 million, from \$40.8m. the previous year.

The company's revenues rose to \$758.4m., from \$600.2m. Earnings per share fell to \$1.57, from \$2.20 in 1993.

The firm said profits were affected by a \$10.2m. charge resulting from Elbit's purchase of Fibronics.

Fourth-quarter profits were \$2.7m., compared with \$11.7m., while earnings per share fell to \$0.13, from \$0.63 in 1993.

Revenues rose to \$248.8m., from \$200.2m.

Elron Electronics Industries reported a drop in 1994 net profits to \$6.34m., from \$10.5m., on revenues of \$17.18m., down from \$16.25m. in 1993. Earnings per share fell to \$0.35, from \$0.61 in 1993.

The company registered a

\$5.2m. loss in 1994 due to a merger between its subsidiary Elbit and Fibronics. In the merger, Fibronics shares were converted into Elbit shares at a 20 to 1 ratio.

Fourth-quarter net profits were \$1.1m., or \$0.05 per share, compared with \$2.3m., or \$0.13 per share.

Aggregate revenues of the Elron group reached \$1 billion in 1994, compared with \$800m. the previous year. Elron's share in net profits of affiliated companies fell to \$8m., from \$12.1m. in 1993, primarily due to a write-off related to the Fibronics acquisition.

Clal Health and Recreation Resorts (formerly Assuta) reported a fall in 1994 net profits to NIS 2.8m., from NIS 3.6m. in the previous year. Revenues were NIS 5.3m.

The company, whose main property is Tel Aviv's Assuta Hospital, was taken over by Clal in 1994.

The firm entered into advanced negotiations with Devimco, a subsidiary of the French hotel chain Accor, last month, to establish two joint ventures in hotel management here.

Edumetics reported 1994 net losses of \$6.48m. compared with net profits of \$2.3m. in the previous year. Revenues were \$7.3m. compared with \$10m. in 1993.

The company recorded fourth-quarter losses of \$1.16m. on revenues of \$947,938 compared with \$2m. in the same period in 1993.

R&D costs were \$4.3m. compared with \$2.3m. in 1993. The company is in the process of developing new products and a new operating system which is to be released this September.

All Hapoalim provident funds drop

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim reported yesterday all of its provident funds achieved negative nominal yields last month while United Mizrahi Bank said all but two of its funds recorded negative nominal yields.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the country's largest fund with assets of NIS 12.8 billion, achieved a negative yield of 2.7 percent in February and a negative yield of 2.49% since the start of the year.

Other figures: Bank Hapoalim Compensation, February -2.6%/two months -2.23%; Keren Or, -2.65%/-2.41%; Katzi, -2.58%/-2.38%; United Mizrahi Bank's Atid, -2.18%/-1.89%; Lior, -2.32%/-1.98%; Tiferet, -2.18%/-1.9%; Compensation Fund, -2.21%/-1.82%.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Teva, MMD sign accord: Teva announced yesterday it has signed a distribution agreement in New York with the US pharmaceutical concern Marion Merrell Dow (MMD) for which Teva has received \$25 million. The joint venture, Teva/Marion Partners, will distribute Copaxone, a drug used in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. Teva will produce the drug in Israel and sell it in North America through its subsidiary the Lemmon Company.

Jordan's Triangle in joint venture with Hagai: The first joint venture agreement between Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and European Union-based companies was signed this week. Palestinian-owned, Jordanian-based Triangle and Israeli holding group Hagai will market products manufactured by the Spanish concern Inesba, which specializes in technologically advanced paints.

Tenza - a Fairchild Technology Venture has made an additional \$47,750 investment in Plazer for 2.1 percent of outstanding capital share, bringing the fund's total investment in Plazer to \$375,000, or 26% of the company.

Diamond exports up: In the first two months of the year, Israel's diamond exports reached \$728m., 24% higher than the same period in 1994. Exports to Japan have increased by 66% to \$158m., compared with \$95m. last year. US exports were \$363m., 13% higher than last year.

The Postal Authority and Customs Authority have joined forces to speed up the process of releasing imported packages and tied-up bundles from the Tel Aviv customs office. Starting today, packages and bundles valued up to \$100 will be released by a computerized process. For items valued between \$101-\$1,000, customers will have the choice of freeing it from a customs teller in the post office or from the Customs Authority house in Jaffa.

Interest rate policy worsens profitability - poll: An Israel Chambers of Commerce poll of 40 leading managers in 15 industrial sectors has revealed that the current interest rate policy has worsened profitability in 80% of all cases.

Manufacturers Association calls for change in currency basket structure: The Manufacturers Association yesterday called on the Bank of Israel to change the structure of its basket of currencies. The association said the recent plunge of the dollar on world markets shows the basket must be changed. The association said 75% of Israel's total production is in dollars.

WORLD BRIEFS

Volvo posts record earnings: Swedish vehicle maker AB Volvo posted a record profit of \$2.30 billion yesterday, but Chief Executive Soren Gyll declared he was not satisfied and that margins needed to be higher.

Volvo's pre-tax profit, as well as being the largest it has ever recorded, was a dramatic turnaround from 1993, when the company made a loss of \$371.5 million. Analysts had forecast a pre-tax profit of \$2.24b. for 1994.

German wage deadlock eases: The deadlock in Germany's 1995 wage round began to ease yesterday as several industries reached pay agreements matching Tuesday's benchmark deal for the giant engineering sector.

The insurance and wood processing industries struck deals increasing pay by 4 percent and 3.6 percent respectively, in line with the engineering sector's pay award of around four percent.

But wage bargainers in the important chemical and banking sectors remain at loggerheads, with chemical employers ruling out a 4% rise. Banking workers, meanwhile, see 4% as a minimum.

RTZ Corporation Plc, the world's largest mining company, reported yesterday a huge surge in full-year earnings, fueled by a boom in metal prices and stronger-than-expected worldwide economic growth.

"The biggest single factor is the effect of higher metal prices. It was by far the most dominant influence," said chief executive Robert Wilson at a news conference.

RTZ's net income more than doubled to £612m. from £287m. in 1993.

BAT shows flat '94 profits: British tobacco and insurance giant BAT Industries Plc reported flat 1994 profits of £1.8b. yesterday, hit by US charges and the slide in world investment markets.

Looking ahead, though, BAT moved to re-assure clients in Britain's pensions "mis-selling" scandal and pledged to keep dividend rises well ahead of the rate of inflation.

Britain rapped for planned power generator sell-off: The government came under fire again yesterday for its decision to sell its holdings in Britain's power generators a day before the industry regulator announced he was studying new electricity price curbs.

The government rejected charges that it had been negligent or dishonest in going ahead with the £4b. sell-off of National Power and PowerGen on Monday.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (8.3.95)

Currency (deposit rate)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$200,000)	5.575	5.500	6.125
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	4.750	5.575
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.500	3.750	4.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.250	3.575
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.3.95)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.4450	3.4550	100	3.4450	3.4550	3.4500
U.S. dollar	2.5354	2.5454	200	2.5354	2.5454	2.5400
German mark	2.1464	2.1564	2.11	2.1464	2.1564	2.1500
Pound sterling	4.8937	4.9037	4.74	4.8937	4.9037	4.8900
French franc	0.8329	0.8429	0.82	0.8329	0.8429	0.8300
Japanese yen (100)	3.2703	3.2803	3.22	3.2703	3.2803	3.2600
Dutch florin	1.9133	1.9233	1.89	1.9133	1.9233	1.9100
Swiss franc	2.5988	2.6088	2.54	2.5988	2.6088	2.5900
Swedish krona	0.4129	0.4229	0.41	0.4129	0.4229	0.4100
Norwegian krona	0.4799	0.4899	0.47	0.4799	0.4899	0.4700
Danish krone	0.5301	0.5401	0.52	0.5301	0.5401	0.5200
Finland mark	0.6589	0.6689	0.65	0.6589	0.6689	0.6500
Canadian dollar	2.0928	2.1028	2.06	2.0928	2.1028	2.0800
Australian dollar	2.1783	2.1883	2.25	2.1783	2.1883	2.1700
S. African rand	0.8941	0.9041	0.77	0.8941	0.9041	0.8800
Belgian franc (10)	1.0388	1.0488	1.02	1.0388	1.0488	1.0300
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0507	3.0607	3.00	3.0507	3.0607	3.0400
Italian lire (1000)	1.8094	1.8194	1.77	1.8094	1.8194	1.8000
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—	—	—
EU	3.0319	3.0419	3.04	3.0319	3.0419	3.0300
Yen (10 million)	4.8068	4.8168	4.88	4.8068	4.8168	4.8000
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3389	2.3489	2.28	2.3389	2.3489	2.3300

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Wimbledon manager to be punished for calling ref 'Hitler'

LONDON (Reuters) - Defiant Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear declared yesterday that he would continue to speak out against "diabolical" refereeing standards despite the prospect of a harsh punishment from the English Football Association.

Kinnear was dismissed by referee Robbie Hart as Wimbledon lost 1-0 to Manchester United on Tuesday following a controversial 84th minute goal from Steve Bruce.

After the match, Kinnear told reporters that Hart "sent me off in his normal Hitler fashion" and said he was prepared to put his career on the line because he would not stop airing his concerns.

"Whatever happens to me, I'll continue to tell the truth the way I see it and speak out against injustices in the game," Kinnear said.

"This was typical of the diabolical standards we have been suffering all season and Robbie Hart is one of the worst referees in the League in my opinion."

Kinnear also said video evidence proved time and again that referees were making mistakes, which were ignored by the FA.

His outburst followed Hart sending off Wimbledon left-back Alan Kimble for failing to retreat 10 yards from a United corner - his second bookable offense of the game - which incensed both Kinnear and Wimbledon owner Sam Hamman.

Kinnear said: "He must be the first player in the world to be sent off for standing nine yards from a corner but the ref just kept saying to me 'get off the pitch, get off the pitch'. In the end he told me

to go in the stands and I thought I had better go."

Hamman could also now face FA action after police broke up an angry confrontation with Hart.

Kinnear, banned from the touchline last season for twice insulting linesmen, already faces an FA misconduct charge following remarks made about referee Mike Reed, who disallowed an injury-time equalizer at Newcastle six weeks ago.

Kinnear added: "I haven't been given a date yet for my hearing over the Newcastle thing, but no doubt I'll be given a heavy fine and then who knows what else for this ruck with Robbie Hart."

The winning goal, which came when Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers claimed Bruce should have been pulled up for dangerous play, put United back on top of the premier league.

Kinnear admitted he had "no qualms" about the legality of the goal but said: Segers was intimidated by Bruce going in with his foot up when the ball stuck in the mud, but in my opinion he made a cock-up by dropping it in the first place.

"The referee made a cock-up, too, when he sent Kimble off and I told him so."

The fiery incidents at Selhurst Park were the second involving Manchester United at the same ground in the last six weeks.

When they played there on January 25 against Crystal Palace, which shares the ground with Wimbledon, Eric Cantona leapt into the crowd and kicked a fan while Paul Ince also allegedly assaulted another fan in the crowd.

Last night's results: Premier League: Blackburn 3, Arsenal 1; Manchester City 1, Chelsea 2; Newcastle 2, West Ham 0; Norwich 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Nottingham Forest 2, Everton 1; Queens Park Rangers 2, Leicester 0; Tottenham 3, Ipswich 0.

Division one: Millwall 2, Reading 0; Portsmouth 1, West Bromwich 2; Wolverhampton 1, Sunderland 0.

'Climbing wall' unveiled at Kiryat Malachi

JOEL GORDIN

A NEW "climbing wall," built for the growing number of Israeli sport-climbers, was officially unveiled at Kiryat Malachi, near Ashkelon yesterday.

The \$15,000, 7½-meter high wall is the most modern in the country. It is the replica of real rock face, complete with overhangings. It was designed by top UK climber Kevin Dixon who has spent the past two years in Israel teaching sport-climbing to the country's 3,000 enthusiasts.

The difference between sport-climbing and the more publicized rappelling, explained Dixon, is that "in rappelling, you descend a rock face, in sport-climbing, you ascend." The need for man-made rock faces or "climbing walls" make it necessary to upgrade the sport because it is more difficult to climb a "wall" than a natural rock face, he said.

"In any case, the strict rules governing the sport stipulate that the participant in a major tournament is not allowed to practice on rock face which he or she is to climb in a competition. Thus new walls must continually be built for international contests."

During a sport-climbing contest, climbers race against the clock, not each other. It can take about one

minute for a good international climber to scale a 7½m. wall, although few Israelis can do it in less than five.

The sport is to be introduced at the next Olympics, with the contestants competing on a 15m-high wall.

Dixon, 33, who was ranked 28th in the world in sport-climbing, came to Israel two years ago to promote products for his sponsor. He stayed on to work for the local adventure company Ezyar (challenge) which promotes sports-climbing, among other activities.

A second wall at Kiryat Ono is the same height as the new wall at Kiryat Malachi, but not as modern.

The opening of the wall was attended by dignitaries from the Kiryat Malachi council, from the Wingate Sports Institute, by the current Israeli men and women sport-climbing champions (Irit Levin and Borat Schohat) and by Doron Harel, the only Israeli to have climbed Mount Everest.

Dixon himself has climbed Everest twice. He also recently climbed the Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv in an attempt to make the Guinness Book of Records (he succeeded), has walked from Tel Aviv to Ethiopia and has worked as a stuntman in movies, including Star Trek.



HANGING ABOUT - Eyal Berkowitz (left) plans to move in on Turkey's Suat (scorer of the winning goal, with the ball) while defender Recep tries to keep the Israeli midfielder at bay.

Complacent Israel falls to Turkey

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S National soccer squad was defeated 2-1 by Turkey in last night's friendly contest in Istanbul.

The Israelis squandered chances galore in front of goal, then paid the ultimate price for some complacent defending, allowing the Turks to wipe out a 1-0 deficit in the 73rd minute, and then steal victory with a goal deep in injury time.

Despite having the lion's share of the possession, and displaying some thoughtful approach work, the Turks failed to live up to pre-match expectations. The Israelis should have sealed the result by the middle of the second half, when the Turks looked to have thrown in the towel. The team's inability to do so will be one of the more worrying aspects of this performance, the last dress rehearsal for coach Shlomo Scharf before the important European championship

qualifier against France on March 29.

The first half was marked by a superb goalkeeping display by Bonnie Ginsburg. The Israeli Ashdod keeper stifled the Turks' offensive barrage almost single-handedly, as every ball floated into the Israeli penalty area at head height and seemed to find a free Turkish player. On the one occasion when Ginsburg was beaten in the first period, Moshe Glam came to the rescue with a clearance off the line.

As usual, Israel only looked comfortable going forward. Berkowitz would have got onto the scoresheet in the 23rd minute, but for an athletic save by Sauer in the Turkish goal. Ten minutes later, Berkowitz had the ball in the net, but was adjudged offside.

It was Ronen Harazi who put the boys in blue ahead. Following a neat interchange with Berkowitz, Alon Hazan pulled away on the right wing in the 40th minute. His perfectly-timed pass fell straight into the path of Harazi who had sprinted into space. The Betar Jerusalem forward drilled his shot with precision into Sauer's net from just inside the area.

The match resumed with Rafi Cohen on for Ginsburg. Within a minute of the restart Israel could have increased the lead. Hazan surged through the Turkish defensive line, and his searing shot veered off the far post into the path of Harazi. This time Harazi's shot sketched over Sauer's upright.

The next ten minutes produced some exciting end-to-end action but

no change in the score. The Turks then made a number of substitutions which served merely to disrupt the flow of their play.

Israel began to control the game. Good opportunities were wasted by Tal Benin and substitute Avishai Janno.

The introduction of Aykut restored the Turks to the fight, and in the 73rd minute he managed to volley a half-chance beyond Cohen for the equalizer.

Splendid chances fell at both ends late in the match to Turkey's Suat and then Israel's Ofer Mizrahi, but were not converted.

With the Israelis waiting for the referee to blow for time, Suat took a short pass from Mehmet and then struck the winner past a dazed Cohen and his fellow-defenders for the last-gasp winner.

Ewing scores season-high 46 points

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Patrick Ewing scored 38 of his season-high 46 points in the second half to lead the Knicks to a 115-110 victory over the Boston Celtics Tuesday.

Ewing, who also had 12 rebounds and six blocked shots, fell five points short of his career high, set against the Celtics in 1990. John Starks added 25 points for New York, which has won three straight and eight of its last 10.

Dino Radja scored 29 points for the Celtics, who have lost nine in a row to the Knicks. Forward Dominique Wilkins scored 19 points and became the ninth player in league history to reach 25,000 points.

Miami 110, L.A. Lakers 104. Glen Rice scored 13 of his 23 points in the first quarter and the Heat never trailed.

The host Heat won despite suspending starting forward Kevin Willis for the game for failure to comply with his back rehabilitation program. Wade Davis and Anthony Peeler scored 23 points each for the Lakers.

Cleveland 89, Detroit 81. Tyrone Hill scored the host Cavaliers' last 10 points as they held the Detroit Pistons scoreless for nearly eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

Hill, who had missed six games after surgery on his right hand, had 11 points off the bench. Chris Mills scored 24 to lead Cleveland, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Terry Mills got 26 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which has lost seven straight at Cleveland. Utah 102, Sacramento 95 (OT). John Stockton scored 35 of his 38 points in a four-minute span bridging the fourth quarter and overtime as visiting Milwaukee.

Stockton scored Utah's last eight points of regulation as the Jazz erased an 89-82 deficit in the final 79 seconds of the fourth quarter. Karl Malone scored 33 points to lead Utah. Walt Williams scored 31 points for Sacramento, which has lost eight of its last nine games.

The Kings now lead Denver by just 2½ games for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Indiana 117, San Antonio 100. Rick Smith scored a season-high 35 points as the visiting Pacers rode a 16-point first-quarter lead to victory, snapping the Spurs' eight-game win streak.

Sean Elliott scored 28 points and David Robinson added 19 for the Spurs.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Utah W L Pct GB

San Antonio 43 16 .729 -

Houston 39 17 .698 2.5

Denver 27 31 .469 15.5

Dallas 22 34 .393 18.5

Minnesota 16 43 .271 27

Pacific Division

Phoenix W L Pct GB

Seattle 48 14 .778 -

L.A. Lakers 38 16 .702 0.5

Portland 31 25 .554 13.5

Sacramento 29 28 .509 15.5

Golden State 28 29 .491 16.5

L.A. Clippers 12 48 .200 34

South Africa beats New Zealand by 93 runs

AUCKLAND (AP) - Medium-pacer Fanie de Villiers upstaged skipper Hansie Cronje's century with a match-winning bowling performance yesterday as South Africa completed a 93-run win over New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test at Eden Park.

Cronje set up the victory by making 101 and then declaring his team's second innings and giving New Zealand a sporting target - 275 runs to win in 63 overs at 4.36 runs per over.

New Zealand, however, was bowled out for 181 in its second innings with 43 balls remaining.

The Kiwis appeared well on course for victory at tea, which was taken at 114 for three.

The quick loss of Stephen Fleming (27) and skipper Ken Rutherford (56) then put paid to their chances as De Villiers bowled impressively.

He accounted for openers Bryan Young and Darrin Murray in his first eight-over spell and then

returned to break the backbone of the home team's resistance - removing Rutherford and Matthew Hart.

South Africa, first innings 284

South Africa, second innings 181

New Zealand, first innings 228

New Zealand, second innings 181

Bryan Young c De Villiers b De Villiers 4

Darrin Murray c Matthews b De Villiers 4

Matthew Hart c Matthews b De Villiers 27

Ken Rutherford c Huxton b De Villiers 56

Adrian Parore c De Villiers b De Villiers 24

Dipak Patel not out 12

Matthew Hart c Richardson b De Villiers 6

Gavin Larsen c Richardson b Donald 1

Don Hestie not out 0

Denny Morrison not out 0

Extras (11b, 4ns, 2lb) 181

Total 284 (50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-42, 3-50, 4-114, 5-146, 6-167, 7-174, 8-174, 9-178, 10-181.

Bowling: De Villiers 16-4-28-1, De Villiers 18-4-42-4, (1nb), Donald 8-2-44-1 (1nb), Matthews 12-5-3-47-3, Cronje 3-1-19-0.

Result: South Africa won by 93 runs.

Quality Classifieds

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT. Single Weekday - NIS 67.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 8.77. FRIDAY and HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum); each additional word NIS 12.87.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (Package) - NIS 198.90, each additional word NIS 19.89. WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 257.40; each additional word NIS 25.74. FOUR FRIDAYS NIS 339.20 for 10 words (minimum) each additional word - NIS 33.92. MONTHLY (24 insertions) NIS 526.50 10 words (minimum) each additional word - NIS 52.65.

DEADLINE OFFICES: Jerusalem - weekdays - 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday - 8 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays - 12 noon, 2 days before publication; Friday and Sunday - 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

GENERAL

DWELLINGS

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Friedman second in ASA tourney

JOE HOFFMAN

ISRAEL'S Gal Friedman moved into second place yesterday after a strong finish at the end of the second day's competition in the 10th International ASA (Academic Sports Association) Boardsailing Championships in Eilat.

Friedman won two of yesterday's three Mistral races to come within one point of current leader Pawel Gardasiewicz of Poland. Gardasiewicz, who won yesterday's third race, leads Friedman 6½-7½ (points are awarded on a negative basis with the least successful of the events' seven races not counting). In third place is Poland's Pawel Kowalski with 16 points. Eilat's Ro'i Hemo fell to fifth.

In the women's Mistral, Poland's Marzena Okonska leads for the second straight day, with an eight-point edge over the Netherlands' Dorien de Vries. Tuesday's runner-up, Katarzyna Prygiel, fell to third.

The Jordanian contingent improved its showing. While all four failed to finish Tuesday's races, Sohaib Dahdal and Yassan Saad came in 10th and 14th place respectively in the student raceboard category.

The Jordanians' accomplishments are all the more noteworthy since the four are newcomers to windsurfing. Dahdal is a nationally ranked swimmer, and Saad regularly competes in water-skiing.

Some 35 windsurfers, including the winners of the 12 categories, plus representatives of the nine participating countries will compete today in the King's Regatta in Akaba.

Bloom falls to Dutch opponent

HEATHER CHAIT

TOP seed Gild Bloom suffered a humbling defeat yesterday in the second round of the Club Hotel Eilat satellite in Haifa.

Bloom, ranked 198 in the world, emerged second best to qualifier Eddy Bank of the Netherlands, losing a three set tussle 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-5. At 5-1 down in the third set, Bloom recovered to reach 5-5 but with the tension mounting, he lost the next two games.

In contrast to Bloom's disappointing performance, Israel's crop of teenage players acquitted themselves well with three 18-year-olds, Eyal Erlich, Lior Mor and wildcard Nir Welgreen advancing to today's quarter-finals.

Last week's winner Erlich (304) faced a close contest against Slovakia's Jaka Bozic (921), winning 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Mor (465) caused an upset by beating seventh seed Giorgio Galimberti (442) of Italy 6-1, 3-6, 7-5. Mor plays Bank today.

Erlich's next opponent is Welgreen (683) who also subdued a seeded player, South African Chris Haggard, sixth seed, with a score of 6-2, 7-6(3).

Oren Motevassell went down to second seed Jozsef Krocso of Hungary, 6-4, 6-4.

Hungary's Victor Nagy, Markus Tanner of Switzerland and Miles Telev of Bulgaria are the other players in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Anna Smashnova, 41 in the WTA rankings, has signed a year's sponsorship contract with the British sports company, SMC.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	12	9	3	27	67	59
Philadelphia	10	9	3	23	69	64
N.Y. Islanders	9	10	3	21	65	63
Tampa Bay	9	12	2	20	62	69
New Jersey	8	9	4	20	64	54
Washington	7	10	3	19	53	65
Florida	7	12	3	17	51	68

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Quebec	16	4	3	35	92	58
Pittsburgh	15	6	2	32	94	76
Boston	12	9	4	28	86	83
Buffalo	8	12	3	19	67	83
Hartford	6	12	3	15	67	83
Montreal	7	10	4	18	68	85
Ottawa	3	14	3	9	44	67

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	14	7	1	29	83	52
Detroit	14	6	1	29	81	45
St. Louis	13	6	1	27	76	56
Toronto	10	10	3	23	65	65
Calgary	9	10	3	21	66	59
Winnipeg	8	11	3	19	68	78

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	
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'Women leaders needed'

WOMEN should get out of the kitchen and into the cabinet. This is the message sent yesterday by female MKs to the country's women on International Women's Day.

The Knesset studied several different aspects of women's issues, devoting a plenum discussion and a special committee meeting on women in the arts to mark the occasion.

"It's a day on which we have to stop and examine our achievements and failures," MK Naomi Blumenthal told the plenum. Blumenthal is chairman of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women. "We have strength, goodwill, and ability, but we also feel frustrated by not moving forward."

A bill submitted by Blumenthal that would oblige local councils to appoint an adviser on women's affairs passed its first reading.

MK Limor Livnat (Likud) said the present Knesset is characterized by cooperation among left and right on women's affairs. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni concurred, saying, "It's refreshing."

National Religious Party MK Avner Shai called violence against women a "mark of Cain"

LIAT COLLINS
and JEFF RICE

and "un-Jewish." He said legislation alone is not enough and an education and information campaign is also needed. The Arab sector was also discussed and Hadas MK Hashem Mahameed attacked Arab leaders who do not categorically denounce violence against women "and hide behind the pretext of 'tradition' and 'family honor,' which cannot justify violence and murder."

Mahameed added: "If women in Israeli society are repressed, women in Arab society are even more repressed."

Last night, the first few minutes of a Tel Aviv awards ceremony marking the tenth anniversary of the Israel Women's Network sounded almost like a rally for Palestinian rights.

Nabia Espagnoli, a Nazareth psychologist and social worker, who was one of four recipients of awards honoring work on behalf of women's rights quickly digressed from discussing her contribution to education and began to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

In a loud and excited voice Espagnoli said, "I believe in the strength of justice and equality,

but justice and equality includes Palestinian rights. When I speak of Palestinian rights I speak of starting here first, with the nation that sits beside us."

"In the Knesset, they say that the problem of the Palestinians has already passed, but it has not. The women's struggle includes the Palestinian struggle. We need to deal with the struggle now. We need to start with the struggle for our nation."

Naomi Nevo, who chaired the awards selection committee, rose from her seat as Espagnoli spoke and practically stopped her in mid-speech.

The ceremony then continued as planned with the remaining award recipients speaking about the importance of women's rights in Israeli society.

Mayor Ronni Milo, who had opened the ceremony, left the auditorium before the awards were distributed and didn't hear Espagnoli's address. Asked whether an award should have been given to someone who had actively supported the PLO before the Oslo accords, Milo replied, "I don't see a problem with her connection to the PLO."

[Prime Minister] Rabin and [Foreign Minister] Peres also have connections to the PLO."

Soldier who killed ex-girlfriend dies day after suicide bid

SOLDIER Shai Maimon, 22, who murdered his estranged girlfriend, Dorit Hakim, 21, on Tuesday and then shot himself in the head, died of his wounds early yesterday.

Maimon, who was doing his compulsory military service, shot Hakim in the throat and stomach with a pistol belonging to his brother, a policeman, before turning it on himself.

Maimon and Hakim, both of Mazkeret Batya, had been seeing each other for several years, before she decided to break off the relationship recently. On Tuesday she came to Maimon's home to talk with him. Shortly after she arrived, he shot her.

Haviv Hakim, Dorit's father, blamed the army for not warning the family about Maimon's disturbed emotional state.

"The army knew exactly what was going on with the boy," Hakim told Army Radio. "Yesterday, when I went to the police station, I found out he had a file full of treatments he had under-

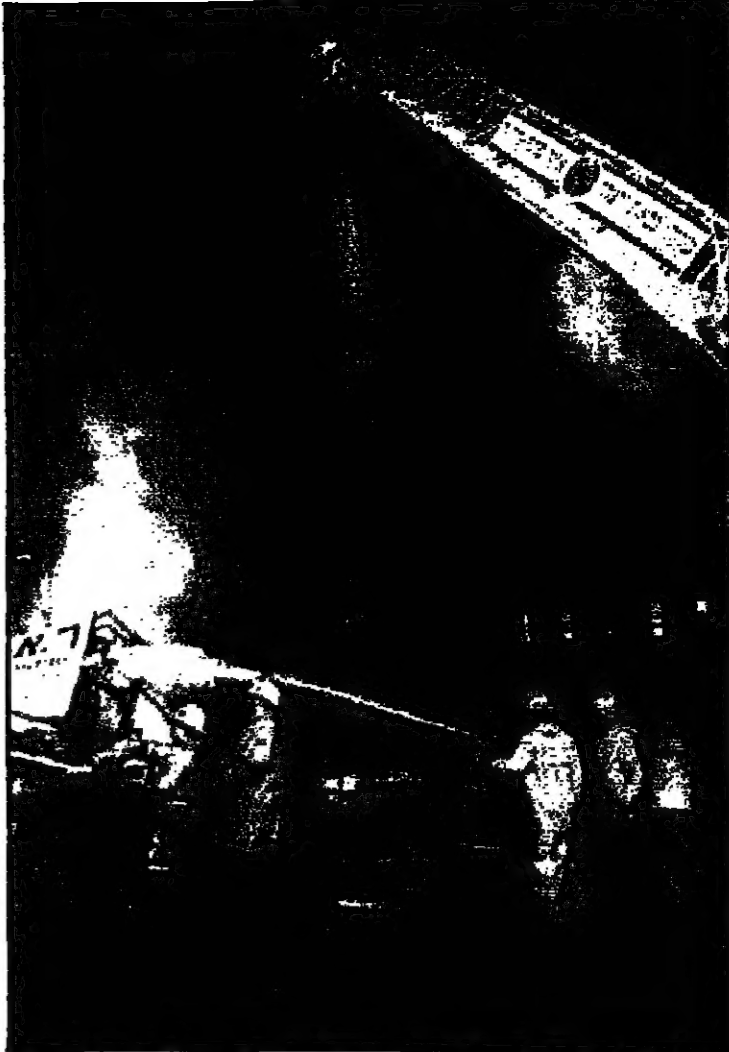
gone for suicide attempts."

Just a day before his daughter's murder, he said, an officer called to inform him that Maimon was going to be discharged because he had become emotionally unstable after breaking up with Dorit.

Following the murder-suicide, WIZO issued a statement reminding the public of its ongoing seminars on preventing family violence. The seminars, which are conducted in high schools and at IDF bases for women soldiers, teach how to recognize the first signs of violence in a partner. (Itim)

Liav Collins adds:

A bill which would prevent reserve soldiers with a record of family violence from carrying weapons while on leave passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday. The bill was proposed by MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), who said it is necessary in light of the fact that IDF-issue guns are commonly used in family murders.



Firefighters from Petah Tikva, Bnei Brak, and Ramat Gan battle a blaze yesterday that raged through and heavily damaged the Madaf plastics factory on Rehov Jabotinsky in Petah Tikva. The fire ignited various poisonous materials, but authorities eventually determined there was no threat to area residents. Huge quantities of water were needed to control the fire and prevent it from spreading to adjacent factories, and the road was closed for some four hours. The cause of the blaze was still not determined last night. (Solomon Wolfovsky)

MKs fined for being absent from parliamentary work

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET members who took time off from their parliamentary work will be made to pay with deductions from their wages. Eight MKs yesterday found themselves on the list of those whose absence had been noticed over the summer session.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud), who missed 28 of the 46 meetings, had six days' pay deducted; Histadrut Secretary General Haim Ramon (Labor), who missed 18 meetings, had one day deducted; Ariel Sharon (Likud) lost three days' pay for the 22 meetings he failed to attend; Omer Mayor Pini Badash (Tsimet) missed 19 meetings for which he was fined two days' pay; Ma'alot Mayor Shlomo Bubbut (Labor) got a warning for missing 16 meetings; Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman (Labor) lost two days' pay for the 19 meetings he missed; David Levy

(Likud) was warned for missing 17 meetings and Yosef Azran (Shas) received a warning for missing 17 sessions.

Sharon wrote a letter to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss in December admitting he had missed several meetings of the summer session and explained his absence by the extra work on his farm due to "the crisis in agriculture since the Oslo agreement. Agriculture has nearly collapsed which obliges us to work hard on the farm," he said in a handwritten note.

But he didn't stay on the farm all summer. Sharon noted he also went on a prolonged information campaign in the US "intended to strengthen Golan, Judea, Samaria and Gaza residents - the last line of defense in Israel."

He promised to do his best to take part in more sessions in the future.

Swiss demand return of Shmulevitz immediately

EVELYN GORDON

THE Swiss have refused to allow Ya'acov Shmulevitz, the key prosecution witness in the Deri trial, to remain here past today, and have threatened to suspend all legal cooperation with Israel if he is not returned promptly.

The State Attorney's Office said last night that it is still trying to persuade the Swiss to change their minds. The defense attorneys are currently in the middle of cross-examining Shmulevitz. By law, his testimony will be inadmissible if the defense is not allowed a full cross-examination.

The High Court of Justice has issued a temporary injunction against his return in response to a petition by Shmulevitz asking to remain. But the petition is to be heard this morning, and the state is asking the court to reject it and cancel the injunction on the spot.

Shmulevitz is under investigation in Switzerland in connection with a case of international corporate fraud. He was lent to Israel for six weeks to testify in the Deri trial, but the Swiss say his immediate return is now essential to their own investigation.

"We cannot comply with Israel's request [to extend Shmulevitz's stay]," said a March 6 letter from the Swiss Justice and Police Ministry, according to a Justice Ministry translation into Hebrew of the original German document. The letter was submitted to both the Jerusalem District Court and the High Court yesterday.

"[Shmulevitz's] presence is urgently required in Zurich for the purpose of inquiries which cannot be postponed any longer," the letter continued. "[However], there is no barrier to his being loaned to Israel again at a later date, if, during the ensuing investigation, he stands by the statements he has made to date."

In his response to the Swiss, head of the Justice Ministry's criminal division Yehoshua Resnick noted that he had warned the Swiss before the loan was arranged of the possibility that Shmulevitz would petition the High Court against his return.

Israel did not promise to prevent such a petition, he said; it merely promised to contest it in court - and it is doing this.

Though Shmulevitz arrived in Israel on January 24, his testimony did not begin until February 13, since the court chose to go on vacation during the first two weeks of February.

Shmulevitz did not testify yesterday, after he reported feeling unwell when he arrived in court, and was released by a doctor from appearing.

During yesterday's hearing, the judges criticized Deri's attorney, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, for revealing classified information about Shmulevitz's health.

Commenting on Shmulevitz's medical file, which disappeared from the records of the IDF Adjutancy-General, Avi-Yitzhak said that Shmulevitz probably did not return the file after he was given it to appear before a medical board.

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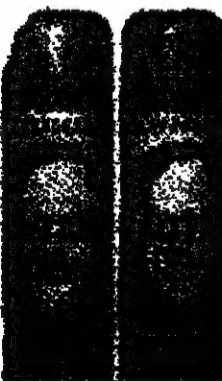


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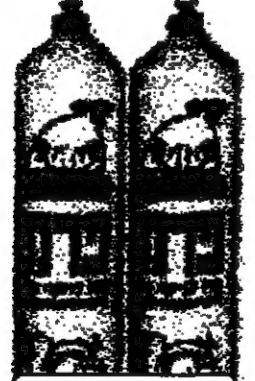
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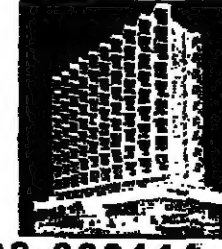
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